

Subject: e-POSHTA June 10, 2008 / e-POSHTA 10 chervnia 2008
From: Myroslava Oleksiuk <myroslava@rogers.com>
Date: Tue, 10 Jun 2008 14:29:47 -0700 (PDT)
To: myroslava_e-poshta-canadaus@yahoogroups.com

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e-POSHTA

Keeping you informed and proactive

До активності - через поінформованість

e-ПОШТА

Myroslava_e-poshta-canadaus@yahooogroups.com

Your Independent Ukrainian Internet Newsletter

Незалежний Український Інтернетний Інформаційний Бюлетень

June 10 червня 2008
Vol.9 No.26

People & Culture & Politics & Business

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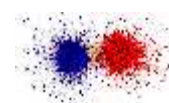
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Contacting trustees urgently required to promote inclusion of Holodomor in genocide course + Attend meeting Thurs. June 6 ^

A Special Meeting of the TDSB will held

Thursday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.

Board Room

5050 Young St.

Toronto, ON

They will be voting on the inclusion of the Holodomor into the genocide course. We should pack the hall with our supporters. Journalists should be invited.

***Make signs and show up Thursday night, 4:00 pm
to start demonstrating at 5050 Yonge!***

This is our chance to make ourselves heard!!

Directions on getting to the TDSB offices

North of Shepard Ave and on the West side of Yonge Street.

It is a five to ten minute walk south from the TTC North Centre Stop on the Yonge Street Line (going North on the Yonge subway Line it is one stop after Shephard)

There will be someone at the entrance to direct you to the correct room.

See street map below. Driving along Shepard can at times be as fast or even faster than the 401. Also 407 across the top of the city is fast - exit at Yonge and then you come south on Yonge St.

[View Larger Map](#)

TDSB Turns a Blind Eye to the Holodomor

By Alex Chumak, Former Toronto School Trustee

See [below](#) outlined approaches when contacting trustees and Board members + [contact information](#) + [presentation on Holodomor to TDSB](#)

What does one have to do to persuade the Toronto District School Board to include the Holodomor/Genocide as part of its curriculum?

At the present time, the Toronto Board will be teaching the following genocides -the Holocaust, Armenian and Rwandan – in its Genocide Program. These were the recommendations of a Review Committee that ostensibly researched many genocides and concluded to teach only these three.

To its credit, the Toronto Board has established an appeal process where the wider community

could express its views on the genocide program and request that, in this case, the Ukrainian genocide should be included in the curriculum. Presumably, the information provided at the appeal would be evaluated on its merit, considered carefully and, based on the information given, would render a decision that is both fair and educationally sound.

Not so with the Toronto Board's Program and School Services Committee which was hearing the appeal.

On June 2, 2008, under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee – Toronto Branch, the Holodomor committee presented educational reasons why the Holodomor should be included in the Board's curriculum. The deputants argued passionately, with adequate documentation and sound educational arguments, that the Holodomor should be included in the curriculum (see comments [below](#) by one of the deputants).

But this did not happen.

While the presentations were made, the Trustees, who were in a position to vote to include the Holodomor in the course of studies, seemed disinterested. When the presentations were over, the floor was open to questions. Not one Trustee asked a question or indicated they would support the appeal. They seemed oblivious to the filled to capacity supporters that were present.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that the Holodomor was in fact a genocide, as confirmed by scholars, historians, and at least 15 national governments with more to come, the Trustees, like Lord Nelson, turned a blind eye to the facts before them.

**Recommendation
from
journalist/author Eric
Margolis:**

From: eric margolis
Date: June 3, 2008
To: 'Valentina Kuryliw

Subject: RE: Article on
the Holodomor in the
Toronto Sun

The refusal of the TDSB to include the Holdomor in their genocide curriculum is scandalous and totally unacceptable. No one has a monopoly on suffering. I urge you to press this fight and even consider legal action. Surely, there

Historically, the Toronto Board has never shied away from controversial, sensitive or progressive issues. In fact, it is the first board in the GTA to have a course on genocide at the grade 11 level. For this, it should be applauded. However, ignoring or not including the Holodomor, which in the Director of Education's own report states that: "more people died in the Ukrainian famine than in all of the genocides that are included in the courses (Holocaust, Armenian and Rwandan), the Review committee did not recommend altering the course at this time, but this should be considered when the course is reviewed. The review will take place in 3 years. For Canadians of Ukrainian origin, this is both offensive and unacceptable, since 2008 is the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor. In fact, the Canadian government has proclaimed the 4th Saturday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day. How can we juxtapose the government's proclamation with a lack of suitable resources in our schools to teach young Canadians about the Holodomor and its implications? This was raised at the June 2nd meeting, but it seemed to fall on deaf and apathetic ears.

In fact, it was insulting to the Ukrainian community that only 3 of the 5 committee members bothered to show up to listen to the deputants, just barely meeting the quorum.

It seems that victims of the Holodomor, at least to the Trustees, are

must be some lawyers of Ukrainian descent who will spearhead this fight pro buono. I would be ready to testify or give deposition.

I feel particular sympathy for you father, having been in one of Stalin's most hellish slave labor camps. My respects.

Best Wishes
Eric Margolis

See the complete letter [below](#).

See additional letters to the TDSB [below](#)

only statistics.

The Ukrainian community does not want to indicate that the Holodomor is more important than other genocides, in other words "my genocide is greater than your genocide." On the contrary, every genocide is a blemish in the world community, as it clearly demonstrates man's inhumanity to man. However, not to include the Holodomor as a genocide of gigantic proportions, which was ignored, concealed, and hidden until very recently, is both an injustice and lack of sensitivity and contrary to the Board's guidelines on genocide studies.

The only recourse that is left for the Ukrainian community is to make its voice known at the upcoming Board meeting. The UCC Holodomor Committee appeals to the community to embark on the following strategies:

a. **Contact your Trustee by phone, email or fax and demand that the Holodomor be included in the genocide studies. A list of contacts can be found at:**

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom/trustees/index.asp>

b. **Send an email to the Chair and members of the School Board requesting the same:**

John Campbell, Chair and Members of the TDSB
john.campbell@tdsb.on.ca

Gerry Connelly, Director of Education
Gerry.Connelly@tdsb.on.ca

c. **Come out to the Special Board meeting, June 12, 6:00pm at the TDSB Board Room, 5050 Yonge St., Toronto.**

We cannot afford to remain on the sideline and assume that the policy makers at the Toronto Board will do the right thing. We have to keep the Holodomor issue alive to the memory of the almost 10 million victims that perished.

Briefing notes on Holodomor:

When calling, emailing, members of the School Board and the trustees, below is some helpful information.

JUST A REMINDER:

More than calling trustees you can start out with:

Have they ever heard of the Holodomor -- the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine?

More than likely they will say they haven't thus allowing us to inform them, etc.

Then challenge their vote if you detect that they are going to vote against inclusion of the Holodomor - as they should be voting on an informed basis and for sound pedagogical reasons. Keep track of those who say they haven't heard of it or those who seem to know little about it and send them supplemental information and request an in person meeting to brief them

The TDSB committee clearly stated that they did not exclude the Holodomor, that there is plenty of opportunity to research it and study it. But we all know that if a topic is not a mandatory part of a curriculum (which it is not, only 3 are), the teachers will not teach it and the kids won't find 'it' to research it.

This is a very important point, and the TDSB have been able to answer questions using this very point, which is a lameduck argument.

Purpose in writing/calling:

Include the Holodomor in the core curriculum - genocide studies

Why:

- Canadian government recognized Holodomor as genocide and identified the 4th Saturday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day.
- Several provinces recognized Holodomor as genocide - Bill is currently before Ontario Legislation.
- Scholars and Historians have documented the famine as a genocide. New documents are emerging almost daily.
- Over 3,000,000 of the victims were children.
- 15 countries, with more to follow, have recognized the Holodomor as a genocide.
- Director's Report acknowledges that more people died in the Ukrainian famine than in the 3 genocides currently approved.
- The Holodomor was the only genocide to be executed in peace time.
- Largely ignored, no media coverage due to Stalin being an ally of the West.
- Holodomor meets the Geneva Convention's definition of Genocide.
- Communist propaganda, supported by NY times journalist Walter Duranty, was purposely misleading. FDR referred to Stalin as "Uncle Joe"
- Stalin's crimes exceed those of Hitler by a factor of 3-4 times.
- Communists and Leftists continue to cover up Stalin's crimes.
- Many school boards in Canada, US and other countries are teaching about the Holodomor as an act of genocide.
- Russia continues to deny it, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.
- The Holodomor is not general public knowledge.
- The Holodomor can be easily incorporated into the existing core program, as teachers have indicated. Resource materials are available and a summer writing team can easily prepare a teaching unit.
- Overall, the intent of the Holodomor was to wipe out the Ukrainian people.
- No reason was given or suggested by the TDSB why the Holodomor cannot be included. The Review Committee is not well represented and has no specialist on Ukrainian or East European history.
- There was no consultation with the Ukrainian community, given that there are over 100,000

- Canadians of Ukrainian origin in the GTA.
- With the recent visit of President Yushchenko and the media coverage of the Holodomor, students are asking questions and would like to do further research.
 - The Ukrainian documentation centre has a wealth of books and other materials on the Holodomor.
 - The Holodomor is an example of a Communist-perpetrated genocide.
 - Stalin's Holodomor gave the greenlight for Hitler's Holocaust, since the Holodomor was successfully concealed and hidden to the West.
 - At the June 2nd meeting, Board officials misled the public by stating there are resources available on the Holodomor within the TDSB course.

These are only guidelines. I hope you find these useful. Feel free to expand or use other arguments.

Letter written by Andrew Melnyk, one of the presenters at the June 2, 2008 meeting of the TDSB on the issue of the Holodomor.

June 5, 2008

Ms. Connelly, Mr. Campbell and all Trustees:
The Toronto District School Board

RE: Proposed course: Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications

I was one of the presenters at the special board meeting that was held June 2, 2008:

I have been a school administrator for the last 20 years with the York Region District School Board and with Ontario- curriculum based Boards overseas and have been present when difficult decisions were made at the Board table. I didn't always agree with the outcome of the vote but I always felt that the Trustees listened and showed respect.

Unfortunately, that did not happen last Monday evening.

You did not show any respect for the taxpayers you represent: Only two trustees showed up on time, another had to be called in to create a quorum. Two other members of the committee being addressed were not present. They literally 'phoned in their votes'. There was minimal presence of Staff.

You were stonewalling: It was obvious all of you had made up your minds long before the presentations were delivered and were going through the motions. You did not listen. You had a united front to not make any changes no matter what new evidence was presented. There were no questions asked. The vote was an automatic 5-0. A motion to review the decision was withdrawn. Everybody went home.

Your response to the media was superficial: After the meeting, the Director told the Sun Media reporter that the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide - Holodomor can be included in the curriculum of the proposed course as an optional topic. There is, however, no mention of this genocide anywhere in the Course Outline or the Course Bibliography. Teachers will not teach a topic about which they have no information. You know that.

The Director also insisted that it was impossible to teach more than three units in a 110 hour

course. What nonsense! Every single high school course offered by your board has at least four units. Most have five, six or more. The reality is that you did not want to consider any modifications to the course. Period.

We had rational, easy to implement, well researched suggestions. We wanted to improve your proposed new course. You could have at least accepted our proposals for consideration. Instead, the vice-chair hid behind "Procedures". He had his introductory remarks **and** his concluding remarks neatly scripted and appeared to have them ready long before he arrived. There would be no deviation from the script regardless of any new information presented.

The **Parliament of Canada**, the highest elected legislative body in the country, unanimously proclaimed last week that the Famine in Ukraine, the Holodomor, was an act of genocide. You cannot change that. **It is the law**. We offered you an opportunity to take this new information and to do the right thing. We also gave you an opportunity to add material that is important to the 100,000 Ukrainian residents of Toronto. You didn't even have the courtesy to listen.

Madame Director, you told the reporter that the Holodomor can be part of the curriculum of the proposed new course. Show us where it can be found in the Course Outline.

Madame Superintendent of Curriculum, please show some respect for your Grade 11 students. They can handle more than three topics a year and you know it. They do it all the time. Look at the other Grade 11 Course Outlines. Don't talk down to us. You stated that no material is available on the Holodomor. That is not the case.

We expected that you would ask us at least one question. If you had, we would have told you that material on the Holodomor is available. History teachers in York Region for instance, have developed an excellent unit on the Holodomor and are teaching it in their schools. These teachers are more than willing to share their unit with your writing team.

We hoped that the Toronto District School Board would be a leader in Canada in the development of this important course. Instead, by hiding behind "Procedure" and by insisting that a review will take place in three years, you will be behind other jurisdictions which **will** include the Holodomor in their courses.

You will look foolish in November when all of Canada and in particular, Toronto, is commemorating the Famine- Genocide and you will have nothing in your 'new' Genocide course on this topic. Grade 11 students are quite sophisticated. They will ask, "WHY?" and they will quickly figure out that the politicians and senior staff have withheld information from them.

There is still time to add another unit to your course. Your writing team can request information and we will gladly provide it. We will even provide an experienced TDSB history curriculum writer to help the writing team find this information.

As elected officials you need to listen and to work with the people you represent. We're on the same side. Listen to our concerns and our suggestions. We obviously put a lot of work into our presentations. You cannot hide in your ivory tower and claim to know better.

I urge all trustees to ask questions at the next Board meeting when this issue is discussed.

Sincerely,

Andrew Melnyk
Newmarket

Letters to the TDSB re: Holodomor genocide course

Dear Ms. Atkinson,

(Irene Atkinson is a TDSB trustee for Ward 7, Parkdale-High Park -- editor)

I am an educator, who has been a department head and teacher of history for the past 35 years within the province of Ontario. I was the one to present the Ukrainian community's points on curriculum at the Appeal Committee hearings.

As such, I have had lots of experience in writing and implementing curriculum within the school system and am familiar with the courses of study available within the field of history and social sciences.

What does the Ukrainian community want from the TDSB?

David Rowan is correct in stating that the Ukrainian community wants the Ukrainian Genocide, the Holodomor, to be included as one of the mandatory units in the Genocide course, but not to replace any of the other three, but to supplement them. It should be part of the course, a fourth genocide to be studied. This was very clearly stated at the Appeal Hearing. It was point #2 in the Presentation on curriculum. Inclusion would lend more credibility to the course, a history course, first and foremost. How can one leave out one of the greatest tragedies of genocide and human rights abuses, perpetrated by the longest lasting empire of the 20th century and not deal with it?

Why do the TDSB staff say that the Holodomor/Ukrainian Genocide is included in the course already?

All genocides may be included as individual study units, when selected by students for research purposes. That does not mean that it will be taught as part of the curriculum, nor heard by other students. Only if the Holodomor is part of the core, mandatory curriculum, the 4 genocides taught, will it be actually presented in the Genocide course.

Is the Holodomor taught in other history courses in the curriculum?

Mr. Rowan's answer that it was already being taught is inadequate. The Ukrainian Genocide could be taught in the West and the World history course in grade 12 on the section on Soviet history and the Five Year Plans, but is lost in the volume of material being covered in the course.

Grade 12 West and the World (CHY4C)... oddly not mentioned in the CHY4U (University) course.

– describe the key factors that have led to conflict and war (e.g., population and resource-based conflicts, as in the dislocation of Aboriginal populations of Nigeria; religious, cultural, and racial issues, as in the Russian pogroms, conflict in Northern Ireland and Kashmir, the Holocaust, genocides in Armenia, Ukraine, and Cambodia; national and imperial rivalries, as in the Seven Years' War, the Napoleonic Wars, the American Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War);

Reference to Ukrainian Genocide in Grade 10 CHC2D1 & CHC2P1:

– analyse Canada’s responses to some of the major human tragedies since World War I (e.g., genocide in Ukraine; the Holocaust; Japanese atrocities prior to and during World War II; famine in Africa; genocide in Somalia; civil war in Bosnia; the AIDS crisis in Africa; September 11);

Few if any additional teaching materials are available to teachers, who themselves know little about the topic. It must be said, that Soviet “disinformation” produced during the heyday of the Soviet period, did prejudice teachers and scholars into denying the famine outright, never mind the denial that an artificially inflicted genocide had occurred. It is only since 1991 and the fall of the Soviet Union that a trove of new archival materials has been published that shows that genocide had occurred in the 1930’s in Ukraine.

Does the teaching of a genocide in other courses preclude that it should not be taught in the Genocide course?

If the mere mention of the Holodomor in other courses is enough to exclude it from the Genocide course, then I question why the Holocaust is included, a topic that is well known by all students, taught extensively in the grade 12 history course, grade 10 history course and the Civics course. Yet, the Holodomor is left out!

Which books in the given bibliography for the Genocide course mention the Holodomor?

Jane Springer’s, book, *Genocide*, is included in the bibliography and mentions the Holodomor. Firstly, the book deals mainly with events in Darfur and the concept of genocide from a psychological perspective. The author is a writer, with an English degree, and is not a historian. Another 3 books included also mention the Holodomor, but are not histories. There are many scholarly works and materials age appropriate for students, available on the history of the Holodomor today that should be included.

Why was the Internment of Ukrainian Canadians brought up at this time?

Ms. Segal brought up the topic of the Internment of Ukrainian Canadians in World War 1. I myself dealt with publishers a number of years ago, when the new grade 10 curriculum was introduced and provided them with materials on Internment in World War 1. This was done to include the topic in the new textbooks for the grade 10 course. That was long overdue, a Canadian issue through and through, and really has no bearing on the topic at hand.

Isn’t it enough to mention that the war crimes tribunals omitted Russia and Stalin’s responsibility for the Ukrainian famine in the course?

How are students to understand how it was possible to organize a genocide in peacetime conditions, under the noses of the West and have it denied and covered up for almost 75 years? How do we explain why the Communists, unlike the Nazis, have never been prosecuted for their part in genocide? This question in itself necessitates that the Holodomor be understood and studied in its entirety to prevent similar situations from occurring in the 21st. century, in which food is used as a weapon, as it had been in Ukraine in the 1930’s.

What about the question of numbers of victims and the Holodomor?

The numbers themselves warrant the study of the Holodomor. They stand at more than the other 3 studied genocides combined (TDSB statement). The complexity of how the Holodomor was organized warrants it. Even now, historians are analyzing the horrific results from Soviet archives. 3,000,000 children were starved to death in Ukraine in one year, more than the entire student population of the TDSB.

Who were the perpetrators and why are they not studied?

The question stands as to why a Communist genocide, the Holodomor, is not included in the core curriculum? The 20th century is to a large extent the century of communist rule. The Soviet Union lasted over 70 years and was one of the most powerful regimes of the 20th century, lasting much longer than Nazis Germany.

Students need to learn that extremists in both the right and left political camps commit atrocities such as genocide and compare them.

What about the argument that there is no time left to teach the Holodomor in the course as planned?

There is adequate time in 110 hours of instruction to teach 4 genocides with an :

- a. Introduction - 20 hours (definition, Un Convention on Genocide, etc...)
- b. 4 genocides - 60 hours (15 hours each)
- c. Culminating activity - 15 hours
- d. Wrap-up - 15 hours.

It makes sense to compare and contrast the two largest genocides side by side, the Holocaust and the Holodomor. The numbers, methods, perpetrators, conditions of war and peace lend themselves to a comparative study of the two and would balance the course for students. Teachers at the TDSB have taught more intensive course content for years, such as the Civilizations, Medieval and Renaissance course in 110 hours.

The argument that the Ministry would have to approve the changes to include the Holodomor , and that there will not be time to do so for the September 2008 deadline looms before us?

A delegation from the Ukrainian community visited the offices of the Minister of Education, K. Wynne. At the meeting it was clearly stated that any changes had to come from the TDSB and that the Ministry would simply ratify them. Since the Minister is already aware of the urgency of this situation, she would act quickly to make the necessary changes in time for the new school year. Course profiles are even now being prepared. An additional unit to include lessons on the Holodomor could be added during the summer months.

What is holding back the TDSB from including the Holodomor as part of the core/mandatory curriculum of the Genocide course, along side the other 3 genocides?

There is nothing holding back the TDSB from including the Holodomor as part of the mandatory curriculum in the Genocide course except a lack of will to change the course at this time. It is still doable and still possible to do what is right and include the Holodomor. This issue will not go away. It is very important to the over 100,000 Canadians of Ukrainian origin in the Toronto area and the more than 1,250,000 in Canada, who see their history slighted by the omission of the

Holodomor from the Genocide course.

Yours sincerely,

Valentina Kuryliw
Toronto, ON

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Attention: John Campbell
Chair -- TDSB
5050 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M2N 5N8

Dear John:

Further to our phone conversation this morning. Thank you for continuing to have an open mind on the issue of making the tragedy of the Holodomor an active part of the TDSB curriculum.

I have shared with the Ukrainian community your initial thoughts on the issue:

That the issue of curriculum is largely decided by academics, and they have chosen not to directly teach the subject of the Holodomor genocide, but rather to allow it to be considered in independent study.

On behalf of the Ukrainian community I urge you to reconsider and intervene in that "academic" decision process. It is missing the facts below, and the compelling human case put forward by 165,000 Toronto citizens (1,250,000 Canadians) who share Ukrainian heritage.

The Holodomor has been hidden for most of a century. Although it is a living memory for many Torontonians today whose parents were survivors -- it has been actively denied them all, for all of their lives, for nearly 75 years. Other peoples who have experienced such inhuman horror have had, at the very least, the solace of world recognition and support. The survivors of the Holodomor have never had this. Not for 75 years. Not for 3 generations. The truth has, until recently, been well hidden. Recent archival evidence released by the Soviet government has finally shed enough light. We know that this genocide had 7 to 10 million victims. And yet the Holodomor has never been taught, not in one single course in Canada, not in one single school.

This spring saw the entire Ukrainian--Canadian community breathe a sigh of relief as the genocide was acknowledged by our Canadian Federal Government. Many countries in the world are now following.

There is an urgency to inform young Canadians about the long--hidden history effecting 1,250,000 Ukrainian Canadians, a key founding culture of Canada. Alberta will teach about the Holodomor in 2009. Saskatchewan and Manitoba are also preparing to do so.

John, thank you for your call today, and for continuing to ensure that the Holodomor receives the substantial attention it rightly deserves in the TDSB curriculum.

Respectfully,

Axel Kuhn
Conservative Party of Canada
Candidate – Etobicoke Centre

June 9, 2008

Ms. Connelly, Mr. Campbell and all Trustees:
The Toronto District School Board

Re: Proposed course: Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications

I was appalled by the lack of interest and respect, given to the presentations given by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress at the Special Board Committee Meeting on June 2, 2008.

I was one of the presenters, the department head of history and social studies, having taught history for 35 years, in Toronto with the Board of Education for the City of York, and most recently with the TDSB. I am also the daughter of two survivors of the Ukrainian Holodomor/Genocide.

I dealt with fourteen points that answered the concerns of the TDSB to include the Holodomor as part of the mandatory curriculum of the Genocide course. It appeared that no one was listening, as there were no questions asked of the presenters to oppose our position, nor any reasons given for the decline. Basically, there was no interest in anything we said. Few of the trustees attended, and two did so by telephone.

The only question addressed by a trustee to David Rowan was whether the Holodomor was taught in other history courses. The answer given by said gentleman was inaccurate. The Holodomor has never been part of the curriculum in the grade 10 course on crimes against humanity (see textbooks) nor in the grade 12 World history course. Few if any teaching materials are available, even those that I prepared 10 years ago on the topic. If that is the reason for it not being included, that it may be taught in other courses, why is it that a topic like the Holocaust, so well known to students, taught in grade 10 history on World War 11, the grade 12 World history course and the Civics course, is included in the genocide course, but not the Holodomor?

I also question the selection of the Review Committee members, who were knowledgeable about the 3 genocides chosen (Armenia, the Holocaust and Rwanda), but are not experts on the Holodomor. No effort was made to select experts in Ukrainian or East European history to deal with the newly published trove of archival evidence that has been released by the government and the KGB, that provide the evidence that the Holodomor was organized by the government of the Soviet Union against the Ukrainian people. I see this as a definite flaw in the entire "review procedure" and question the ability of the Review Committee to make the recommendation not to include the Holodomor in the core curriculum, based on this fact.

As for serving as an example of genocide, the Holodomor is far more effective as a teaching tool, because it occurred in peacetime, was denied for almost 75 years, was covered up, and is a communist genocide, in which food was used as a weapon to destroy a nation and its opposition to Soviet rule. It also had more victims than the other 3 selected genocides combined (statement made by TDSB). How can anyone study a course on human rights abuse and genocide without dealing with the greatest perpetrators of the 20th century and their genocide, the Holodomor?

No one was listening, no one was interested in the plight and agony of the descendants of the 1,250,000 Canadians of Ukrainian origin, 100,000 in the Toronto area, one of the founding nations of modern Canada. Surely, the Canadians of Ukrainian origin and their children deserve no less a mention in the annals of history than the history of other groups in Canada? Our children, born in Canada, bear the burden of our forefathers to right a wrong that has been silenced for 75 years. Our children deserve to study that history alongside of other great tragedies of the 20th Century.

I call upon you, as the elected representatives of the Toronto education system to right a wrong, by taking an interest in this issue, and by bringing in a motion to include the Holodomor as core curriculum in the new Genocide course for the year 2008. As an educator, I know that there is still time to write lesson profiles in the coming summer months. Should they be required, curriculum writers and academic experts may be recommended by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Yours sincerely,
Valentina Kuryliw
Toronto, ON

PS See Valentina's presentation [below](#).

Links to event postings

[^](#)


Do you maintain a web-based list of events for your city or region? Let us know and we'll add a link to your site from the e-POSHTA newsletter.

Canada

- [Alberta](#) [Province wide - Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council]
- [Edmonton, AB](#)
- [Montreal, QC and vicinity](#)
- [Ottawa, ON](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#) [Province wide - Ukrainian Canadian Congress]
- [St. Catharines, ON](#) [Ukrainian Canadian Congress events]
- [Toronto, ON](#) [Ukrainian Canadian Congress events]
- [Vancouver, BC](#)

United States

- [Illinois](#) [Statewide - Ukrainian Congress Committee of America]
- [New York - New Jersey](#)

 Toronto: Toronto District School Board meeting regarding the Holodomor in the genocide course -- June 12

[^](#)

A Special Meeting of the TDSB will held


Thursday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.
Board Room
5050 Young St.

Toronto, ON

They will be voting on the inclusion of the Holodomor into the genocide course. We should pack the hall with our supporters. Journalists have been invited.

***Make signs and show up
Thursday night at 4:00 to
start demonstrating at 5050 Yonge!***

This is our chance to make ourselves heard. See Call to Action [above](#).

 Toronto: Holodomor: Genocide by famine exhibit -- June 6 - 13

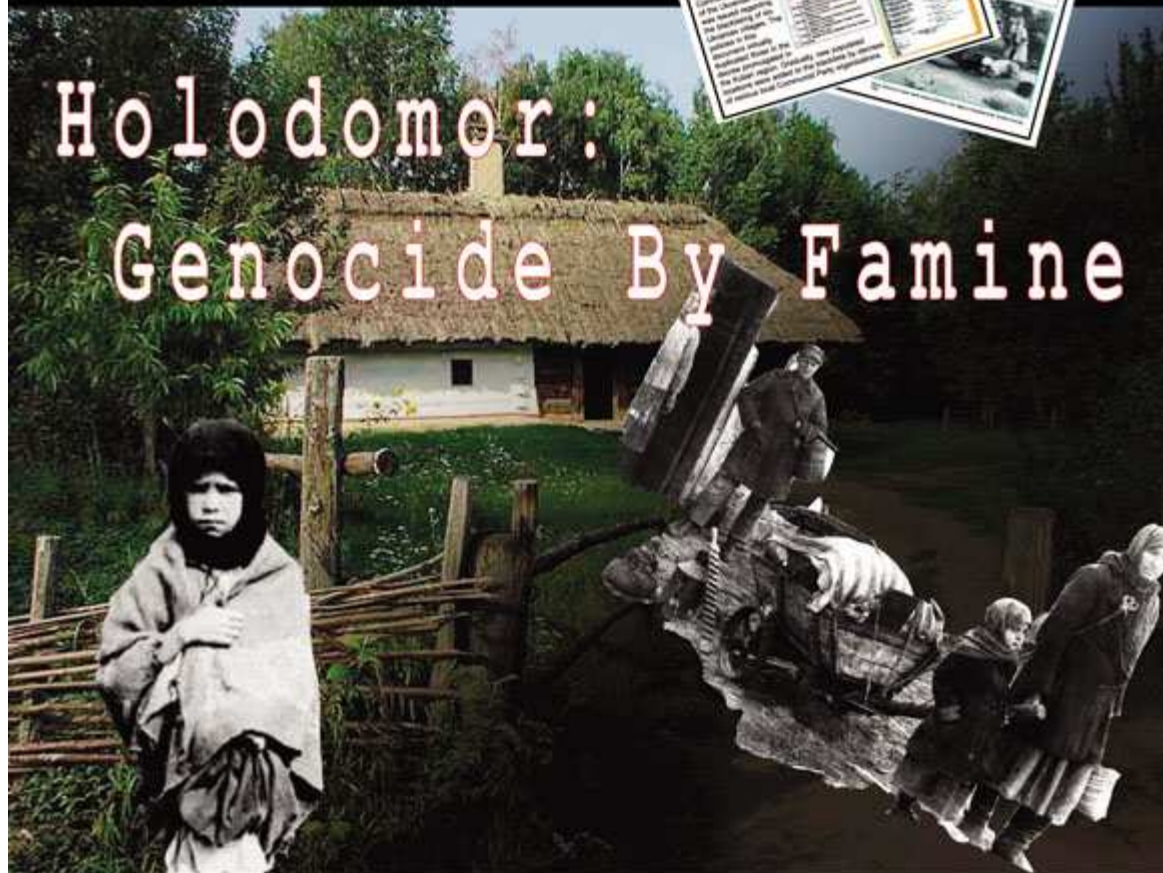
[^](#)



The exhibit has been produced by the League of Ukrainian Canadians in cooperation with the Museum of Soviet Occupation of the Kyiv Memorial Society in Ukraine



Holodomor: Genocide By Famine



June 6 - June 13, 2008


7:30am - 9:30pm (Mon - Fri)

8am - 6pm (Sat & Sun)

Etobicoke Civic Centre

399 The West Mall (Burnhamthorpe & 427)

For further information, contact the League of Ukrainian Canadians at 416-516-8223 or luc@lucorg.com

 Edmonton: Pyrohy Supper/Silent Auction Fundraiser for Mercury Opera -- June 13

[^](#)

Mercury Opera

Cordially invites everyone to a

Pyrohy Supper/Silent Auction Fundraiser

Friday, June 13, 2008, 5pm - 9 pm
St. John's Cultural Centre
10611-110 Avenue
Edmonton, AB

Tickets: only \$16 (in advance or at the door)

Pyrohy dinner will include kobasa, saurkraut, salad, dessert, coffee/tea, (wine and beer may be purchased).

Some of our exciting auction items include: A Vespa LV50, 3 Vespa rental packages, Citadel Tix, Edmonton Opera Tix, Edmonton Police service ride along, original art (Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn), restaurant certificates, designer duds and more.

In support of Mercury Opera's Fringe Production of Pagliacci.

For further information visit www.mercuryopera.com or call Daria Parada at 780.637.5829.

 Watrous, SK: Івана Купала -- 29 червня

[^](#)



Українське Національне Об'єднання Канади
Молодь Українського Національного Об'єднання
Організація Українок Канади Відділи Едмонтону

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Івана Купала

Традиційне українське
святкування

За мотивами творів
Лесі Українки, Ольги Кобилянської та
Миколи Гоголя

У виконанні самодіяльного театру "Сузір'я"



Sunday
June 29th 2008

Little Manitou Beach
Watrous, SK



<http://suziria.ca>

Початок о 7:00

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безкоштовний.
Добровільні датки.

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Юрко: (780) 474 - 6560

<http://suziria.ca>

Presentation on inclusion of Holodomor in genocide course to TDSB

TDSB Presentation

June 2, 2008

1. Introduction:

Mr. Chair, Trustees, Madam Director, Superintendents, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to present to you tonight on a topic of significant importance to the Toronto school community. We represent the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and among our presenters we have teachers, a parent, a former TDSB Trustee and a representative of a Women's Group. We applaud the TDSB for its courage and foresight in introducing a course on Genocide, and are here today to support this course and to offer suggestions which we believe will significantly improve it.

I would now like to introduce our group, outline our concerns and positions and offer rational, easy to implement suggestions which will serve the best interests of the students of TDSB.

My name is Andrew Melnyk. For the past twenty years, I have served as secondary school principal with the York Region District School Board and in Canadian schools overseas. I have Ontario Supervisory Officer qualifications and have taught at the OISE Principal Qualification Program for a number of years.

My colleague, Mrs. Valentina Kuryliw has been a history teacher and History and Social Studies department head with the TDSB for almost thirty years, most recently at York Humber High School.

Both of us have extensive experience writing and implementing curriculum.

Also, someone who has a very strong vested interest in the outcome of your deliberations, a parent with two children attending Richview Collegiate, **Mrs Luba Tarapatsky.** She represents countless Ukrainian parents who have the same concerns and who share similar views.

Finally, someone many of you, I'm sure will recognize, **Mr. Alexander Chumak.** Mr. Alexander Chumak, was a lecturer at Humber College and Ryerson University for fourteen years and served as TDSB trustee for a total of 20 years.

Also with us, representing the Ukrainian Women's Group, **Mrs. Christina Bidak.**

I'd like to start with some good news: Last week, President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, was in Canada. He delivered an address in Parliament to the joint session of the Commons and the Senate. The following day, the Canadian Parliament unanimously passed a resolution recognizing that the artificial famine in Ukraine in 1932-33 was an act of Genocide and acknowledged that millions of Ukrainians were victims of Stalin's murderous policies. This resolution received royal assent on May 29th, 2008.

Canada has thus joined the United States, Mexico and a number of European countries in recognizing the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33 as an act of Genocide.

As with all Genocides, there are deniers. This is unfortunate and tragic but a reality we have to

overcome.

It is important that the TDSB is on the right side of History.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 2008 marks the 75th anniversary of this tragic event. In a few months, in November of 2008, just as the new course on Genocide is being taught for the first time in our schools, extensive ceremonies will be held all over the world, including Canada, commemorating the Famine Genocide in Ukraine. The events will include concerts, media presentations, dedications of memorials and other large public events. Also, Parliament has designated the fourth Saturday of November as Ukrainian Genocide –Holodomor- Memorial Day. It would be incongruous to have no mention of this genocide in the curriculum of a brand new course. The TDSB can be on the leading edge and receive credit for including this significant genocide in its new course or, TDSB can introduce a course which from its outset is at the very least outdated and at worse, heavily flawed and therefore irrelevant.

Canada is home to 1.3 million citizens of Ukrainian origin who wish to see their history respected and taught in their schools. Over 100,000 Ukrainians live in Toronto and a significant percentage send their children to TDSB. We would like to ensure that this proposed new course is accurate and relevant to them.

It is widely recognized by the academic community that there were seven major Genocides committed in the 20th century: The three largest, starting with the earliest one are: Turkey's Armenian Genocide of 1915-18; Stalin's Famine - Genocide in Ukraine, 1932-33 and the Nazi Holocaust of 1938-45. The others are: Pol Pot's Cambodian massacres of 1975-79, Nanking, Boznia, Rwanda and in this century, Darfur.

Two of the three largest 20th century genocides have been included in the proposed Grade 11 course. One was left out. While we recognize that we cannot include all atrocities committed during the last century in this course, we strongly suggest that not including the Famine Genocide in Ukraine would be a gross omission and would weaken the course.

The Director, in her decision published in April of this year, accepted that millions lost their lives in one of the largest Genocides of the century – the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. The absence of any mention of this significant Genocide, in this Grade 11 course would be a serious flaw and would strongly suggest denial or worse -- discrimination.

We urge you to decide today to add one more unit to the Grade 11 course on Genocide. – a unit on the Genocide recently recognized by the parliament of Canada and Congress in the United States – the Holodomor, the Famine – Genocide in Ukraine. We see no logical reason not to do this. There is no 'down-side'. It is the right thing to do.

- 2.) I would now like to introduce, Mrs. Valentina Kuriliw...
- 3.) I would now like to call on our parent representative, Mrs. Terepatsky
- 4.) I would now like to call on Mr. Alexander Chumak...
- 5.) And, Women's group representative, Christina Bidak...

TDSB PRESENTATION: CURRICULUM



Valentina Kuryliw
For the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto Branch

As a history department head and teacher of 35 years, I feel that I am qualified to make some recommendations on curriculum issues dealing with the proposed Genocide course. I will outline some points to support the inclusion of the Ukrainian Genocide in the proposed curriculum. I am also the daughter of two survivors of the Ukrainian Famine/Genocide.

1. The question of Intent. Prof. Alex Hinton of the Centre for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University, states “the Holodomor, the Ukrainian genocide was intentional because, based on demographic studies, eyewitness accounts, and primary documentation (much of which only became available after the fall of the Soviet Union), including memoranda and documents directly linked to Stalin, the Soviet regime clearly sought to destroy the Ukrainian kulaks through death by starvation or deportation to death camps.

Ukrainians were the largest minority ethnic group within the Soviet Union. Ukraine is a state with vast natural resources that Stalin resolved to keep within his sphere of influence at any cost. Stalin stated, “the national question is the farmers’ question.” and proceeded to break the spirit of the Ukrainian people and subjugate them to Soviet rule by terror eliminating the Ukrainian Orthodox church, the intellectual elite, the leading farmers in the villages, labelled as subhuman kulaks, and lastly the farmers. Fearing a full scale rebellion, not even the Ukrainian communists were exempt, as they were purged and replaced with others in 1932-33.

Prof. Hinton goes on to say "systematically" because the program was implemented from above through policies such as (see Conquest 1986; Mace 2004):

- a. increasingly harsh requisitions of local agricultural produce including, in 1933, an order for the seizure of seed intended for spring planting;
- b. an explicit attempt to attack the foundations of Ukraine's incipient nationalist movement, including the destruction of the Ukrainian elite, the suppression of Ukrainian language and culture, and an accompanying campaign of Russification;
- c. sealing Ukraine's borders and preventing Ukrainian peasants from travelling to other areas seek food;

- d. refusing offers of food aid from other countries; and
- e. initiating a campaign of denial about what was happening.

An increasing amount of evidence, including a trove of recently released primary documentation, suggests that the famine did have an explicit ethnic element and thus would also meet the legal definition of genocide. *The U.S. Commission on the Ukrainian Famine* (1988) found that the famine met the standards of genocide. Along these lines, the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide is included in almost all of the leading books on genocide, ranging from Adam Jones's *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*, to Samuel Totten's, William S. Parsons's, and Israel Charney's compendium, *Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts* to William L. Hewitt's anthology, *Defining the Horrific: Readings on Genocide and Holocaust in the Twentieth Century*. The terror-famine was, in other words, a genocide: an intentional and systematic attempt to destroy, in whole or in part, the Ukrainian peasant kulaks, their culture and society.

2. Numbers: Recommendation 4 insists that only three genocides be taught mainly due to the “complexity” of the core course material. This is reductionist and limiting. First of all, it will create a hierarchical study ranking genocides, in which some are deemed more important than others. Inclusion of the Ukrainian Genocide does not require the removal of another case. Millions of Ukrainian farmers perished during the famine. Given the magnitude of the genocide, this case bears serious consideration for inclusion in the curriculum.

3 Time Allotment: A 110 hour course allotment gives teachers sufficient time to teach not only 3 units but more often 5 or 6 units. There is enough time to include a fourth case in a manner consistent with the need to have detailed case studies to understand the phenomenon of genocide. The 110 hours of instruction could be broken down into:

- A. Introduction to genocide: definition, the UN Convention Document -- 20 hours.
- B. 4 Genocides -- 60 hours, each given 15 hours of equal time.
- C. Culminating Activity and Wrap-up -- 30 hours.

Well organized history teachers have been successfully teaching courses with “complex and comprehensive content” for years; example: Ancient Civilizations, Medieval and Renaissance history.

Having more topics would enhance the course and would make it more interesting,. more relevant and more like other history courses.

4. Political Genocide: Chronologically, the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-33 fits in-between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust and geographically is located in Eastern Europe. Inclusion of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, however, would fill a critical existing gap since the cases that have been selected do not raise the issue of political genocide, a crucial issue in the field of genocide studies.

5. Genocide in Peacetime: The Genocide of Ukraine is an excellent example of how a genocide may evolve in peacetime, a unique situation, unlike the other 3 wartime situations, organized behind the iron walls of a totalitarian state. where human rights were absent and human life was considered unimportant. It is definitely an important lesson for children of the 21st. century to learn

that genocides can occur even in peacetime.

6. Communist Genocides: The cases that have been selected do not include genocides committed by communist regimes. Besides fitting nicely with the larger historical study of communist states like the USSR, the Ukrainian famine-genocide illustrates how programs of utopian social engineering, legitimated in the name of "progress," may result in mass murder. This is a crucial insight for students. When paired with the Holocaust, in particular, students studying the Ukrainian famine-genocide will learn about the potential dangers of extremist visions on both the far Right and far Left.

7. Lessons of History: Hitler learned his lesson from his best teacher, Stalin. Hitler saw that the Ukrainian Genocide was not acknowledged, nor was the Soviet Union punished in the West with sanctions. Therefore, would the Holocaust have occurred without the precedent set by the Ukrainian Genocide? As a matter of fact, the USA recognized the USSR in 1933 at the height of the Famine/Genocide and it was admitted into the League of Nations in 1934. This is an excellent lesson of how political expediency in world politics wins over the horrors of genocide.

8. Critical Thinking Skills: The review committee stresses that the study of genocide will enhance critical thinking skills. The Ukrainian Genocide case is quite complicated and can help students better understand the history and origins of the concept of genocide, how it may be applied to a complicated case study, and how genocide may be contested and denied into the present. This could be enhanced by studying the virtual "cover-up" of the "Holodomor" in the West and the world. The control of media, both inside the Soviet Union and its influence on journalists in the West, is an excellent opportunity for a lesson in propaganda and manipulation. The successful "cover-up" should be analyzed by looking at The Depression of the 1930's, the western sympathizers and left-wing advocates of communism, who were prepared to forgive the Soviets for crimes against humanity and genocide. This is a question of ethics, a moral issue that should be discussed by students, and compared to similar events in the 21st century.

9. Food as "a political weapon" are the words of Litvinov, the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs when speaking of the Holodomor.. Induced starvation is yet another method of genocide. We see this reoccurring in the case of the famine in Ethiopia. The lesson of the Holodomor should be taught to help prevent similar instances of induced starvation in the 21st. century.

10. Historiography and Holodomor Denial: There currently exists a campaign of Holodomor denial, one that can be traced all the way back to the time of the famine-genocide itself. Incorporating the Ukrainian Genocide into the proposed curriculum would make a strong statement about the reality of this genocide, one that is in keeping with the affirmative stance the Canadian government has just taken on the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide.

11. Recommendation 5 for a teacher review in 3 years re curriculum is too long a period of time. Teachers know after teaching a course once, what needs to be changed. Inclusion of the Ukrainian Famine/Genocide should be immediate. Course profiles are being prepared at this time. Often summer months are used to prepare them as well. It can still be done.

12. The Bibliography presented for this course is extensive, but excludes many genocides including the Holodomor. There is now adequate documentation on the Ukrainian Genocide in the English language in book and electronic format to provide both teachers and students with resources, such as eyewitness accounts, government documents, historical analyses, and after-the-fact representations. The existing bibliography should be revisited and supplemented with

the excellent publications available and organized under the headings proposed by the Review Committee. This could be done in partnership with the Ukrainian community and its organizations. (Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre) and with experts on Ukrainian history.

13. The Review Committee appears to have been slanted in favour of the genocides selected by the TDSB. The question remains :Why were there no experts on Ukrainian/Soviet history, consulted, especially because of the concerns raised by the Ukrainian community about the omission of the Famine/Genocide from the curriculum. We could provide you with a list of specialists on the subject.

14. The Ukrainian Holodomor will be taught in schools in Alberta, in 2009. Saskatchewan and Manitoba are following close behind. Unless the TDSB includes it in their curriculum, it will be left behind the times.

It is no longer a debate about historical facts -they have been established and recognized, not only by politicians but by serious academics. The Board concedes the fact that more people died in Ukraine's tragedy than in the 3 other genocides combined. Good pedagogy requires that we teach such issues and have students decide where the truth lies. All genocides have deniers. It gives teachers an opportunity to teach critical thinking skills and prepare our students for the world today.

World forgets, Canada remembers

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See letters to the editor [below](#) .

www.torontosun.com/News/Columnists/Margolis_Eric/2008/06/01/5737531-sun.php

June 1,2008

Eric Margolis

Canada's planned recognition of the 1932-1933 genocide, or Holdomor, in Ukraine is very significant, even if long overdue. It was also apropos for this week's visit of Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko, who remains that troubled nation's best hope for democracy and continued independence.

Ottawa's decision was motivated as much by ethnic politics as historic justice, but Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government deserves kudos for doing the right thing.

For eight decades, the greatest mass murder in modern history has been shamefully covered up or ignored. I was shocked to receive letters from young Ukrainian-Canadians saying they had known nothing about the Holdomor until reading about it in my columns. Hopefully, more now will know.

From 1932-33, Josef Stalin and henchmen, Lazar Kaganovich and V.M. Molotov, conducted a merciless campaign to crush resistance by Ukrainian farmers to communism and collectivization. They isolated Ukraine, then cut off all food supplies and seeds. Six to nine million Ukrainians died from the ensuing man-made famine and mass executions of "anti-State elements." Cannibalism became common.

Large numbers of Ukrainians were also murdered during the Great Terror of 1936-38 in which an estimated two million Soviet citizens were shot and the same number died in Stalin's concentration camps.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Soviet penal system reached its zenith: 5.4 million people were prisoners in the gulag or in frigid Siberian exile.

TO THE GULAG

Some 300,000 more Ukrainians were sent to the gulag under the supervision of Commissar Nikita Khrushchev, and 21,259 were killed in Soviet "pacification" campaigns.

During the same period, Moscow unleashed terror on the tiny Baltic states. From March to May 1949, 95,000 Lithuanians, 27,000 of them children, were sent to concentration camps. In total, 120,000 Lithuanians, 50,000 Latvians and 30,000 Estonians went to the gulag where the death rate was 51% per annum.

While the western world rightly commemorates genocide inflicted on Armenians, Europe's Jews, Cambodians, Rwandans and Bosnians, it shamefully shut its eyes to the Ukrainian Holdomor because it was conducted by a key wartime ally whom President F.D. Roosevelt hailed as "Uncle Joe."

Nor has the West ever acknowledged genocide against other peoples of the Soviet Union. In the Caucasus, Stalin sent most of the Chechen and Ingush peoples to the gulag, where 500,000 died. Yet when the children of the survivors fought for independence from Russia, the West branded them "Islamic terrorists."

Up to three million Muslims of the Soviet Union died at Stalin's hands, including 1.5 million Kazakhs and Crimean Tatars. No holocaust memorials exist for them.

Nearly 100,000 Moldovans were murdered in a purge conducted by then Commissar Leonid Brezhnev, who would later lead the Soviet Union and be feted by Western leaders.

Add to this butcher's bill Volga Germans, Greeks, Cossacks, Armenians and Poles.

If we keep demanding that Germany and Japan atone for their wartime crimes, is it not time for our governments to finally recognize and atone their alliances with the biggest mass murderer in history, Stalin? His crimes exceeded those of Adolf Hitler by a factor of at least four times. Particularly so in the United States, where the Second World War has become something of a state religion and is invoked endlessly to justify foreign military adventures. Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky demanded a Nuremberg trial for all the Soviet crimes, but unfortunately this will never happen. Most of the criminals are dead.

Canada's recognition of this historic crime is important for two reasons. First, Canada is one of the world's most respected nations. Its acknowledgement of the Holdomor will be heard around the globe. Second, nostalgia for Stalin is on the rise in today's Russia. His memory and politics are being rehabilitated. Russians must be reminded of his crimes and reign of terror.

In "les abus de la memoire," the Bulgarian-born French philosopher Tzvetan Todorov wrote, "Life cannot withstand death, but memory is gaining in its struggle against nothingness."

Kremlin's love of projecting Nazism on everyone else

[^](#)

Andri Kapustin's article would have been further enriched by noting the Kremlin's love of projecting Nazism on everybody

Although it is probably the case that the Kremlin projects Nazism on Ukraine more than on any other country, so great is the Kremlin's embarrassment about Russian Nazism that it takes delight in blowing up the most insignificant observations into symptoms of the Nazism of every country but Russia, and even of the entire continent of Europe.

The evidence comes from Russian tourist Sergei Stillavin strolling through Florence making observations on Italian life in a 14:03 minutue video on the Izvestia web site media.izvestia.ru/~ in the course of which, for approximately 40 seconds (between 09:20 and 10:00), he pauses by the window of a philately and numismatics shop, and peering through the window at its display, notes behind a plaque of coins that a few of the stamps bear the image of Hitler. Even after the camera has zoomed in, it is hard to be sure of what one is seeing, but one can guess that there may be a grand total of three stamps showing Hitler in profile, facing left.



Russian tourist Sergei Stillavin pauses at the window of Torello Orlandini's numismatics and philately store in Florence, and for what purpose? One can infer that Stillavin has earlier noticed some Hitler stamps in the window, and now wishes to bring them to the viewer's attention. These Hitler stamps are as yet off screen to the lower-right and behind a coin display. Sergei Stillavin reaches over and turns the lens to zoom-in, whereupon his camera person aims the camera at the Hitler stamps, of which there appear to be three. It is to be kept in mind that the image produced by a zoomed-in camera might be bigger and clearer than a passer-by will be able to see with his naked eye, even upon pressing his face against the window. One notices also that these three stamps are below the eye level of the passer-by, possibly at something like knee

These three Hitler stamps are among the least interesting or symptomatic of the observations Stillavin makes in his entire Florence video. But what does Izvestia make of Stillavin's insignificant observation? It finds its own image of a Hitler stamp, a comparatively large and clear image and not one that was visible in the Stillavin video, and displays a thumb of it on the Izvestia home page where it links to the Stillavin video, and also flashes the large and clear version of it at the beginning of the Stillavin video--as shown below--and presents as the headline for the video, "Hitler stamps are sold in the cultural center of Europe." Izvestia turns Stillavin dirt into Kremlin gold.

There, the Kremlin invites us to conclude--just as Ukraine is more Nazi than Russia for allowing on its territory someone somewhere at some time or other to offer for sale possibly a single copy of Mein Kampf amid possibly hundreds of other books; so also is all of Europe more Nazi than Russia for the Torello Orlandini store offering for sale three Hitler stamps among the hundreds of coins and stamps in its window, and among the probably thousands of coins and stamps in its store. Another coup for the disinformation-warfare specialists slaving away in the bowels of the Kremlin.

Such further observations and reflections as these are foreign to Andri Kapustin to whom the criteria of good journalism are satisfied by parroting accusations of Ukrainian Nazism without enquiry

level.

into their origin and motivation.

Ukraine no longer silent about famine

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<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-fg-famine3-2008jun03,0,1654692.story>

June 3, 2008

Survivors of the Holodomor -- 'death by hunger' -- are raising awareness about a topic long smothered by forced Soviet silence

By Megan K. Stack

After decades spent buried in Soviet silence and smothered in official denials, the Stalin-era famine has emerged as a passionate, painful topic that festers at the heart of tensions between Russia and Ukraine. This spring, presidents, talk show hosts and a Nobel laureate have trumpeted their opinions on whether the starvation of millions of peasants qualifies as genocide.

The push for international recognition of the famine as genocide is being led by a new generation of Western-leaning Ukrainians, most visibly President Viktor Yushchenko. Keen to shed light on the suffering, they also believe that a declaration of genocide would bolster Ukraine's independence from Russia, helping it regain its sense of itself as a separate country, bonded by national tragedy.

[...]

But no struggle has proved so bitter, or touched so many nerves, as the one over Ukrainian history, culture and language. In today's Ukraine -- the country's name means "borderland" -- the smallest gestures are freighted with meaning. Some Ukrainians mind, deeply, visitors who refer to "the Ukraine" -- a term the Ukrainians say implies their nation is merely Russia's frontier.

"He will speak Ukrainian," snapped an aide to a pro-Western lawmaker when asked whether his boss might speak Russian during an interview. "He is a Ukrainian and so he will speak Ukrainian."

[...]

Infuriating to Russia

This trend has infuriated Moscow, where the sense of Ukraine as a piece of Russia remains strong, and many are suffused with newfound nostalgia for the USSR. Vladimir Putin, who became Russia's prime minister after his presidential tenure ended last month, has complained of Ukraine's recent historical reinterpretations.

"These unfriendly moves sadden the atmosphere of relations between our two countries," Putin, as president, wrote in a letter to his Ukrainian counterpart. "They could seriously impact bilateral cooperation in various ways."

The famine may be the rawest nerve of all.

This is what Haraschenko remembers: Coming home from Young Pioneer camp and helping to harvest the grain, only to watch the all the kernels be carted off toward Russia. The day the soldiers came through his house and confiscated every last bit of flour and milk. The hunger that grew

relentlessly until the widow who lived next door killed her 4-year-old daughter and cooked the corpse to survive.

In the beginning he helped to bury the other students' bodies, but soon the villagers got used to the sight of death, he said, and left the remains to litter the streets. By the time it was over, at least 3.5 million Ukrainians were dead, and the survivors were ordered by Soviet officials to keep their memories to themselves.

"The agents went through the houses and said, 'There was no famine. Forget it. Don't say a word,' " Haraschenko said. "If you talked about it, if you even said the word 'famine,' you went to Siberia."

That's a far cry from today. During a luncheon toast here this spring, Yushchenko asked President Bush to recognize the famine as an act of genocide. "We will be immeasurably grateful," he said.

[...]

Even Nobel laureate Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn, who was exiled for his searing literary portraits of Soviet injustices, came out of retirement in April to rail against the Ukrainians. "This provocateur's cry of 'genocide' began to germinate decades later," he wrote in a piece published by Izvestia newspaper. "First secretly, in the moldy minds of chauvinists maliciously set against [Russia], and now elevated to government circles of today's Ukraine."

[...]

Tucked away in a modest apartment with his wife and cat, Haraschenko knows exactly what he wants for his country. He has never forgotten the lifestyle he witnessed as a young soldier in countries such as Austria and Czechoslovakia. Those memories have lingered all these years, fueling a nationalistic desire to see Ukraine detached from Russia's shadow and united with Europe.

"Here, to this day, we haven't achieved 1% of what they had already achieved at that time," he said. "I compare it to the current situation in Ukraine and I can say that they were further along."

But mostly, he wants to recount his memories of the famine.

"We all kept silent," he said. "And now there are just a few left who can tell these stories."

Complete article:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-fg-famine3-2008jun03,0,1654692.story>

Standing up to be counted

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<http://thespec.metrolandwest.com/Opinions/article/378779>

The Hamilton Spectator

June 02, 2008

By Kevin Cavanagh

[...]

This was the second time in recent years a Canadian government had the gumption to take a stand on a controversial issue in the global community. Four years ago, our Parliament became one of a very few to stand up and recognize the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 as a genocide, a label that elicits fierce anger from Turkey.

Does it even matter that a country such as Canada takes a stand on something that happened so long ago? Yes. It's a statement of principle seen and heard around the world, and helps shape global consensus about what is tolerable and acceptable in civilized society.

Sensitivity and fear of controversy lead many governments to take the easy way out and simply not have an opinion, one way or the other. Cynics suspect Ottawa's decision last week was done to win favour with a million Canadian voters of Ukrainian descent, considering the feds just last fall said they had no plans to recognize the famine as a genocide. But the fact is this private member's bill received all-party support, as did the 2004 vote on Armenia.

In the end, side-stepping difficult decisions because of fear or intimidation is simply an abdication of responsibility by people who should lead. It's a dangerous step down a path toward submissively swallowing censorship, propaganda and freedom.

The world will never learn from its history if we don't face up to it.

Complete article: <http://thespec.metrolandwest.com/Opinions/article/378779>

A new film about Nazi-Soviet links

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http://www.economist.com/opinion/displayStory.cfm'sTORY_ID=11401983

May 22nd 2008

From Economist.com

Telling the Soviet story

BEING burnt in effigy on the streets of Moscow by nationalist hoodlums must count as a kind of Oscar if you are a Latvian filmmaker whose aim is to expose modern Russia's blindness to the criminal history of the Soviet Union. The ire of Young Russia's protest outside the Latvian embassy this week was directed at Edvins Snore, whose film "Soviet Story" is the most powerful antidote yet to the sanitisation of the past.

The film is gripping, audacious and uncompromising. Though it starts by telling the story of the murder of 7m Ukrainians in 1933, it is no mere catalogue of atrocities. The main aim of the film is to show the close connections—philosophical, political and organisational—between the Nazi and Soviet systems.

As Françoise Thom (one of many anti-communist luminaries appearing in the film) puts it: "Nazism was based on false biology; Marxism was based on false sociology". The Marxist dream of the "new man", for example, mirrored the Nazi idea of racial superiority. The Nazis murdered chiefly on racial grounds, while the Soviets concentrated on class. But mass murder is mass murder.

Those who keep a soft spot for Marxism may flinch to hear that the sage of Highgate referred to backward societies as Völkerabfälle (racial trash) who must "perish in the revolutionary holocaust".

Or that the Nazi party in its early days idolised Lenin (Josef Goebbels said he was second only to Adolf Hitler in greatness).

Perhaps the best sequence in the film shows pairs of posters using almost identical designs: muscular workers strike heroic attitudes in support of the party and the state, blonde little girls beam, fists smash enemies, hammers break chains. Without the swastika and hammer and sickle as clues, it would be hard to know which is which.

The illustration of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact is compelling: Soviet radio transmitters guided German bombers in their attacks on Poland. A Soviet naval base near Murmansk helped the Nazi attack on Norway. The Soviet secret police helped train the Gestapo and discussed how to deal with the “Jewish question” in occupied Poland.

Cooperation was based on a written agreement--complete with the signature of Lavrenty Beria, head of the notorious NKVD--which is shown in the film. “The NKVD will propose to the Soviet Government a programme to reduce the participation of Jews in state bodies and to prohibit Jews and Jewish offspring of mixed marriages from the areas of culture and education”, reads a final, chilling sentence. Russia says the document is a fake.

Powerful archival footage shows Red Army officers drinking toasts with their counterparts from the SS in Berlin in December 1939. In 1940, the Soviet Union had become a huge supplier of grain and oil to the Nazi war machine, while it encouraged the Communist parties of western Europe to sabotage the anti-Nazi resistance.

“It is comforting to see Parisian workers talking to German soldiers as friends”, a French communist publication gloated in July 1940. Vyacheslav Molotov, who was then the Soviet Union's foreign minister, called fighting Nazism a “crime”. Along with similar pronouncements, that was published in every Soviet newspaper; such pages were hurriedly removed after Hitler's treachery.

Something pretty similar happened in the West. Nazi war criminals are reviled; their Soviet counterparts are honoured veterans to this day. Any attempt to bring them to justice prompts angry protests from Russia. “Hands Off Our Granddads”, was the slogan chanted by the protestors from Young Russia. A better question might be, “What exactly happened?”

Mr Snore and his sponsors in the European Parliament have produced a sharply provocative work. Its tone, technique and composition may be open to criticism. But those who want to ban it should try refuting it first.

Music Camp International sets Guinness world record in Artek, Ukraine

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<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/05/prweb973674.htm>

A choir of more than 800 orphans and disadvantaged children sang the great classical music of Hadyn along with national music and spirituals after only one week of training. The theme of our concert supports MCI's conviction that children who sing together will not take up arms to fight each other.

Scotts Valley, CA (PRWEB) May 28, 2008 -- A children's choir of more than 800 non-auditioned children, accompanied by the Simferopol Orchestra of Chamber Musical Theater, presented a

concert, "Children for Peace", at Artek, International Children's Center on May 8. Never before has such a large choir of non-auditioned children, singing in four languages after only one week of instruction, accompanied by a professional orchestra, performed such a concert.

The concert was the culmination of a week long Music Camp, conducted by Music Camp International, a non-profit children's charity that takes the healing gift of music to children in Ukraine and Romania.

The choir of 800 children, ages 10-14, gave a first-ever opportunity to orphans and disadvantaged children to sing in a great concert. The repertoire consisted of classical music, Ukrainian patriotic songs, folk songs, and songs for peace. The children sang in Ukrainian, Russian, Latin, and English. The concert was conducted by Connie Fortunato, founder and president of Music Camp International.

Music Camp International bases its work on the strong belief that all children have music inside, and when nurtured in a positive and caring environment, they can achieve a level of success that brings dignity and hope regardless of economic or social situation. MCI believes that when a child discovers "the music inside" they will find self esteem and a joy that lasts a lifetime.

Connie said, "The theme of our concert supports MCI's conviction that children who sing together will not take up arms to fight each other."

Music Camp International has conducted week-long Music Camps throughout Romania (Bucharest, Cluj, Brasov, Sibiu, and Bistrita) and Ukraine (Kyiv, Artek, and Cherkassy). Every camp involves children who have never sung or touched an instrument alongside those from musical schools who have had extensive musical experiences. Each camp involves orphans and children from the social welfare system and situations of extreme poverty and hardship.

An audience from all sectors--families, friends, educators, social workers, dignitaries, and professional musicians--sat in stunned silence as children, previously thought to be "not musically talented" sang the great classics of Hadyn, Mozart, Handel, Saint-Saens, and others, as well as songs of national origin, and spirituals--an international favorite.

In June 2008, Music Camp International will collaborate with Priyyateli Ditey (Help the Children) in conducting a Music Camp for 1,100 orphans at Molodoya Gvardia, a children's camp facility close to Odessa, Ukraine. The concert, which is being sponsored by the Ukrainian government, will be held at the Opera Theater in Odessa--one of the most beautiful opera theaters in the world! The Odessa Opera Theater Orchestra will accompany the performance.

The international teaching staff of MCI volunteers comes from Burlington, North Carolina; Santa Cruz, California; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Oradea and Cluj, Romania; and Kyiv, Ukraine.

For further information on the projects of Music Camp International or to learn how you can become involved, visit the website at www.musiccampinternational.org Music Camp International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit children's charity, registered in the United States, Romania, and Ukraine.

Wave of Terror: Powerful novel details dark realities of living under Stalin

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June 1st, 2008

Wave of Terror

By Theodore Odrach, translated by Erma Odrach
Academy Chicago, 326 pages, \$20

This is a gem of a novel.

The late Ukrainian-Canadian writer Theodore Odrach has given us a powerful story and one that has been hidden so long from so many readers. It first appeared in a Ukrainian edition in 1972, and it is now available in English. This is due in considerable measure to the skill and dedication of his daughter Erma, his translator.

Page after page of beautiful prose testifies to the depth of that skill and to a remarkable sensitivity.

Wave of Terror opens in 1939 with the Soviet occupation of Belarus. Odrach, who died in Toronto in 1964, was a witness to those days, and it is clear that his own life ran parallel to that of the novel's central character, Ivan Kulik.

Kulik is a Ukrainian schoolmaster in the small town of Hlaby near Pinsk. Hlaby is in Belarus, but the inhabitants are for the most part Ukrainian. Until 1939, the village had been part of Poland. The villagers must now come to terms with the new realities of Stalin's power.

For most of us with no memory of the time and place, the story may seem so dark as to be improbable. It is about the struggle to adjust to tyranny. It calls to mind, afresh, nightmare images of Orwell's 1984 and Solzhenitsyn's A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich. Odrach's work has a similar and in some ways even a greater power.

For in Odrach's characters, nightmare does not completely triumph. We see ordinary people keeping their lives on course against the backdrop of a monstrous oppression. It is a world where the sun still shines sometimes and where hope still contends with fear.

We meet with decency at every turn, with characters who embody a human spirit that is abiding and unassailable. Odrach gives us humour and irony, too, both in situation and in character. And so it is this juxtaposition of the everyday with the monstrous that sets the book apart from much of the writing on Stalin's tyranny.

Still, the scene in the winter of 1939-1940 is very dark. There is a pervasive mistrust. It eats into friendship and love, ruins creativity and finally undermines sanity.

As Odrach tells us: "There was no logic left anywhere: the real world did not exist any more... The sane were becoming insane, the insane, sane. Everything was in a jumble."

Fear and mistrust are constructed in the character of Sobakin, a Russian NKVD officer who, in his malignity, is the closest thing to pure evil that the novel has to offer. Just as vividly Odrach shows us the consequences of evil in the grim stories of the victims.

A bleak dread hangs over the winter of 1939-1940 from which there is little hope of escape. Odrach creates an atmosphere that nourishes oppression.

His interiors offer little solace. They are dark and close, filled with foreboding and bad dreams.

While outside "a dead silence hung in the air broken only by the sound of the wind."

For Kulik, oppression takes two forms, one that is personal and intimate, another that is more abstract and indirect. The first promises loss of freedom and physical annihilation, the second loss of identity and self respect.

For Kulik (and for Odrach) identity centres on language, and the pages of Wave of Terror turn again and again to the politics of language and culture.

As the Russians move in there is a pathetic scramble on the part of many to speak Russian and to ape the tastes of their new masters. To this spectacle is added a deliberate official campaign of "Russification."

None of this is for Kulik. For him language is the centre of political life. His cultured Ukrainian is both a defiant weapon and a shield for his self-respect.

There is no happy ending for Kulik. He loses everything: romantic love, his friends, his career. He must flee from the NKVD and manage alone. Yet he is a survivor and we know somehow that his hope and his determination will keep him safe.

Davis Daycock is a senior scholar and lecturer in political studies at the University of Manitoba.

Photo exhibition for the blind opens in Ukraine

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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7420874.stm>

Photo exhibition for the blind

A photography exhibition designed for blind people has opened in Ukraine. Each exhibit is accompanied by a 3D version and audio description. Gabriel Gatehouse reports from Kyiv.

To watch the video, click here: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7420874.stm>

Вшанування світлої пам'яті панотця Миколи Сарми-Соколовського

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<http://maidan.org.ua/static/newsvostok/1211362482.html>

21-05-2008

18 травня ініціативою українських громадських організацій у м. Новомосковську Дніпропетровської області відбулося урочисте відкриття меморіальної дошки людині-легенді панотцю Миколі Сармі-Соколовському. Член Спілки Української Молоді 20-х років ХХ ст., священник Української Автокефальної Православної Церкви, учасник Української Повстанської Армії, член Організації Українських Націоналістів з 1941 року, відомий поет, письменник, художник, бандурист, громадський діяч, багатолітній політв'язень радянських концтаборів, полум'яний патріот М. Сарма-Соколовський вже життя присвятив боротьбі за Україну, за оборону її честі й гідності.

Під час вшанувального мітингу виступили представники влади, громадських об'єднань, науковці, літератори, бандуристи, друзі і родичі Миколи Сарми-Соколовського. Меморіальна дошка була освячена священниками УПЦ Київського патріархату.

Рішення про встановлення меморіальної дошки М. Сармі-Соколовському прийняла Новомосковська міська рада, вона ж взяла на себе також відповідальність за її збереження й охорону.

Спадщина Олеся Гончара: невідомі сторінки



квітня виконалося 90-лет з дня народження видатного українського письменника і громадського діяча Олеся Терентієвича Гончара. У нашій бібліотеці, Бібліотека української літератури в Москві, є практично всі його твори, у тому числі знаменитий роман «Собор», а також видані на початку 2000-х рр. «Щоденники», на сторінках яких письменник ділиться з нами найпотраємнішим. Ці видання були представлені читачам на бібліотечних культурологічних студіях, що відбулися 20 травня студіях і були присвячені ювілею письменника.

На зустрічі прозвучала розповідь про творчі досягнення одного з найвидатніших представників української літератури ХХ століття, гості бібліотеки були ознайомлені з рядом листів О.Т. Гончара.

Було зазначено, що творча спадщина Олеся Терентієвича, зокрема, епістолярна її частина, містить і багато неопублікованих, а часом і невідомих текстів, що характеризують творчу особу і життєву позицію письменника-громадянина, його активну участь в процесах не лише літературного, але і тісно пов'язаного з ним громадського життя. До таких документів належить і відправлений 20 червня 1987 року автором «Собора» схвильований лист, адресований ініціаторові «перестройки» тодішньому Генеральному секретареві ЦК КПРС М.С. Горбачову. Цей документ свого часу був виявлений в архівах колишнього ЦК одним з його дослідників О. Новіковим.

Учасники культурологічних студій ознайомилися із змістом документа, який докладно і яскраво характеризує громадсько-культурну ситуацію в Україні 80-х рр., у тому числі і особливості тодішнього літературного процесу. Відбулася цікава розмова про необхідність поєднання турботи про збереження і розвиток рідної мови з шанобливим відношенням до всіх національних мов і культур, що завжди послідовно, як і в представленому на бібліотечній зустрічі листі, демонстрував в своїй письменницькій і громадській діяльності Олесь Гончар.

Альтист Андрій Війтович на Бі-Бі-Сі



www.bbc.co.uk/ukrainian/entertainment/story/2008/05/080531_interactive_vyjtovych_is.shtml
субота, 31 травня 2008 р.,



Гостем п'ятничної програми Бі-Бі-Сі був альтист Андрій Війтович, учень Єгуді Менухіна, концертмейстер альтів оркестру Королівської опери у Лондоні. Ольга Бетко розпитувала його про класичну музику і життя творчої людини за кордоном.

Нижче подається скорочений текст розмови, яка лунала в прямому ефірі.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Андрію, ви починали грати на скрипці, а потім перейшли на альт - чому?

А.Війтович: Я дійсно починав на скрипці у львівській середній музичній школі імені Соломії Крушельницької. Потім перейшов до Львівської консерваторії (тепер Вищий державний музичний інститут). Але так сталося, що коли я поїхав до Швейцарії в Академію Менухіна, їм були потрібні більше альтисти, ніж скрипалі. Мені запропонували спробувати перейти на альт, я це зробив, мені це дуже імпонувало.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Чи важко було перелаштуватися, чи велика різниця між скрипкою і альтом?

А.Війтович: Воно не було важко, технологія в принципі та сама. Альт є трошки більшим - він має також 4, але трохи інші, струни й інший ключ. Перебудовуватись не було так вже важко, але деякі нюанси свої були. Найголовніше і найтяжче, напевне, те, що у нас існує повір'я, то той, хто переходить на альт - не є дуже добрим скрипалем, так що це психологічно мене тиснуло тривалий час. Але я дуже задоволений, що я цей крок зробив, що я перейшов на альт.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Ви були знайомі з Менухіним?

А.Війтович: Так, він вже був старенький, правда. Це були останні його 5 років, але нам довелося поспілкуватися і навіть пограти, що було досить цікаво. Це була людина виняткових якостей людських і музичних. Звичайно, це була для мене велика гордість, що я мав можливість спілкуватися з таким музикантом і вчитися в його Академії.

Запитання слухачки з Києва: Як склалася ваша кар'єра на Заході, адже там музикантам легше пробиватися, бо в Україні класична музика в зовсім іншому стані: класику слухає або старенька інтелігенція, або професіонали. Чи є різниця між Україною і Англією? Чи там класика більше популярна?

А.Війтович: По-перше, на Захід я потрапив досить випадково. Мене запросили зі Львова також дуже випадково, це довга історія. Але я опинився там і відразу мусив вникнути в цей стиль життя. По-друге, Академія була досить винятковим закладом, тому що ми займалися виключно майстерністю володіння інструментами, там були тільки струнні інструменти - скрипка, альт, віолончель і контрабас. Тобто, впродовж 4-х років я більше нічого не робив - тільки грав на інструменті. Чи відрізняється класична музика на Заході і в Україні - відрізняється фактурність подачі концертів. Під цим я розумію спонсорство, або державні кошти на утримання тих чи інших оркестрів. Наприклад, в Англії більшість оркестрів самі себе окупувають. Вони мають деякі дотації від держави, також від Національної лотереї. Вони шукають своїх спонсорів. Наприклад, є відомий лорд Сейнсбері, є дуже відомі люди. У Німеччині більшість оркестрів такі як Берлінська філармонія, вони є на дотації держави.

А щодо заможних людей, які хотіли би спонсорувати камерну музику, я думаю, що до того дійде. Тому що багаті люди, вони купують здебільшого яхти, будинки, футбольні клуби, потім вони перейдуть до приватних галерей, до образотворчого мистецтва, а потім, якщо хтось започаткує - я думаю, що рано чи пізно це станеться - вкладати гроші в класичну музику, то цей приклад підхоплять й інші люди.

Бі-Бі-Сі: В Королівській Опері, де ви працюєте, дуже багато спонсорів і це велика честь. Їхні імена на дошках висять...

А.Війтович: Королівська Опера - це національна гордість Англії і спонсорувати такий

заклад – дуже престижно і люди, напевно, мають велику рекламу з того.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Чи справді на Заході музикантові легше пробитися ніж в Україні?

А.Війтович: Якщо гарний музикант, то він має таку саму можливість пробитися на Заході як і в Україні, але пробитися на Захід дуже важко, або стає важче. І це не завжди залежить від рівня музиканта, а часто від паспорту, від робочої візи, тобто дуже часто це перешкода. Мене запросив уперше Лондонський симфонічний оркестр і мені дуже пощастило, тому що вони домоглися, що б мені дали робочу візу, а вже потім я перейшов в Королівську оперу.

Запитання з Івано-Франківська: Інтерес в української молоді до класичної музики дуже низький, як ви гадаєте, може треба, наприклад, поєднати класичну музику з сучасними ритмами?

А.Війтович: Я буваю в Україні буваю досить часто і нерідко граю і не вважаю, що в молоді захоплення класичною музикою є низьким, тому що на концертах завжди бачу багато молоді. Крім того, я знаю, що у Львові і Києві проводяться фестивалі. У Львові є фестиваль Віртуози і контрасти. В Одесі проводиться фестиваль сучасної музики Два дні і дві ночі і резонанс від тих фестивалів є величезним. І на концертах дуже багато молоді, можливо, правда, це інтерес до сучасної музики.

А щодо поєднання класичної музики з поп чи рок музикою - цей процес вже проводився, в тій самій Англії. В Королівському Альберт Холі (концертна зала) грав відомий Королівський симфонічний оркестр з групою Deep Purple і резонанс був дуже великий.

На рахунок української музики, на жаль, я не маю зв'язків з поп чи рок гуртами, Але хотілося б спробувати. Навіть колись написав імейла до Славка Вакарчука, спроба така була з ним зв'язатися.

Був концерт три роки тому в Києві, я привозив Ансамбль солістів королівської опери і ми мали концерти в Києві, Львові і Одесі. Ми виконували сучасну музику, обробки відомих творів для скрипки.

Запитання з Донецька: У мене була бабуся, яка народилася в 1904 році, вона не вчилася навіть в гімназії, але наспівувала арії з опер Верді, Чайковського. Чому зараз люди, які не мають музичної освіти, не знають цієї музики? Може це виховання?

А.Війтович: Так, ви відповіли на своє питання. Це був елемент освіти. Дітей старалися навчати грати на різних інструментах. В Карпатах гуцули вчили своїх дітей грати на скрипці, хоча самі не вміли грати професійно. Елемент музичності, співучості споконвік був присутній в українській нації. Люди завжди співали – в радості чи в горі.

Бі-Бі-Сі: запитання з Сум - якщо говорити про класику, то треба домовитися яку музику вважати класичною: чи лише старих композиторів, Баха, чи й сучасних також? Чи це інструментальна музика, чи пісні також, чи Шуберт, чи Пугачова?

Що вважається класичною музикою, чи вона повинна пережити віки і скільки тоді чекати?

А.Війтович: Я на таке питання відповісти не зможу. Що таке класичний фільм? Касабланка – це класика кіно жанру, тому що дуже багато людей його подивилися... Пісні Пугачової –

це є класика, тому що їх всі знають. Є класичні хіти, вони використовуються в авіалініях, крамницях. Якщо ви заберете класичну музику з життя (Моцарта, Бетховена, Брамса), тоді буде вакуум. Адже зараз, куди б ви не зайшли, звучить класична музика...

Запитання від Кароліни з Дніпропетровська: Чи легко було Вам призвичаїтися в Британії? Чи легко було стати своїм? Адже кажуть, що англійці досить-таки примхливо ставляться до іноземців? Іще мене дуже цікавить, чи відрізняється музичний вишкіл англійський від нашого?

А.Війтович: Дякую. Звикнути до Англії було не так важко, тому що я вже чотири роки пожив в Західній Європі, в Швейцарії, а от до неї звикати було дуже важко. Найважче було те, що я до того ніколи не був у Західній Європі і це був культурний шок. Це був 90-й рік, так що ви можете зрозуміти, який це був час, час був непевний. Я поїхав, був єдиною дитиною в батьків, і поїхав до Швейцарії і прожив там чотири роки. Там було дуже важко. А вже коли я приїхав до Англії, то мову трохи знав і орієнтувався в Західній Європі. Я відчув зацікавлення в них, може тому, що я був один із перших музикантів із України, але дуже хороше ставлення. Вони мені дали можливість, по-перше, грати в оркестрі, пройти випробувальний термін, вони мене вибрали серед інших музикантів.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Але Ви пройшли конкурс, Ви гарно грали, чому за це треба дякувати?

А.Війтович: Розумієте, крім мене ще багато людей гарно грали, але я мав свій шанс. І я не мав документів, які мали вони, тобто, їм простіше було взяти когось із Англії, тобто було все-таки щось, що їм сподобалося. Як казав мій вчитель, пан Альберто Лисий, коли я їхав до Англії, 'Андрію, тобі треба знати дві речі: треба бути в правильному місці в правильний час і мати з собою олівець і гумку і все буде добре.' Я це запам'ятав на все життя і зараз даю цю пораду своїм студентам. Я опинився в правильному місці, в правильний час і мав із собою олівець і гумку, і, напевно, ще їм підійшов по грі. А звикати до стилю життя в Англії мені не потрібно було, бо я вже прожив за кордоном.

Щодо вишколу, так як я зараз викладаю в одній із академій у Лондоні, вишкіл в Англії, звичайно, відрізняється, він є слабшим ніж советський вишкіл - не український, не російський, а советський. Тому що все-таки в Советському Союзі була непересічна школа, вона мала прекрасних педагогів. як скрипалів. так і артистів, піаністів, і всі це прекрасно знають. Потім після розпаду Радянського Союзу деякі з цих людей виїхали, вони більш чи менш вдало працюють в західних країнах, але ця школа лишилася. Вона лишилася і в Києві, і в Москві. І люди, які приїздять із західної Європи в загальному, вони для мене вишколені не музично, а технологічно вище. ніж діти в Англії.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Андрію, це був для мене страшенний шок, але я побачила людей цієї школи в джунглях, в Бразилії. В місті Манаос існує фантастичний оперний театр, створений в 19-му столітті, потім був занепад, потім він був складом, а потім туди прибула хвиля, як Ви кажете, советських музикантів, з Білорусії, з України, з Росії, з Петербурга, і вони підняли цей театр. Що дивовижно - ми сьогодні говоримо про класичну музику, чи може вона змагатися з футболом. І це не для червоного слівця, тому що я бачила, як там у цьому Манаосі, в цих джунглях, я бачила, як продавці на вулицях продають класичну музику, як люди, бразильці, розмовляють не про футбол, а про класичну музику...

А.Війтович: Так, бразильці - чемпіони світу з футболу. Їм не треба про це говорити. Англії треба про це говорити. Але класична музика з футболом поки що змагатися не може - це

однозначна моя думка. За масовістю, за рекламою, за грошима. Звичайно, ціни, які ми бачимо в футболі... Їх не можна порівнювати.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Не можна, але таке запитання. Футбол вважається такою масовою розвагою, доступною народним масам, але квиток, наскільки я знаю, річний на ігри зовсім не столичних клубів може сягати в Англії 600 фунтів, а в Королівську оперу можна піти за шість фунтів або за вісім.

А.Війтович: Якщо дуже постаратися. Бо річний квиток в Королівську оперу може коштувати до кількох тисяч. За шість фунтів можна піти, якщо стоячи і в шостій годині ранку. Люди, до речі, ходять, і здебільшого студенти. Знову ж таки, вертаючись до питання, що молодь не ходить на концерти чи молодь не цікавиться - це молодь в Україні. Українська молодь тут чи східноєвропейська молодь дуже цікавиться - і ходить в оперу, і стоїть в черзі в шостій ранку так, як би стояла в Французьке посольство, і отримує той квиток, і йде на ту оперу, і отримує масу задоволення.

А на футбол я дуже люблю ходити і хожу. Футбол - це любов на все життя, після музики, напевно. Але річний квиток я просто не можу купити, тому що я не є членом цього фан-клубу і все решта. Я просто купую одноразові квитки.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Андрію, Ви я кось казали, що в Лондоні почуваетесь львівянином. Що Ви мали на увазі?

А.Війтович: Я завжди буду почуватися. По-перше, я наскільки можу часто їжджу до Львова, батьки приїжджають, і моя дружина киянка, ми теж їздимо до Еиева і її батьки приїжджають. І наша донька - їй шість років - вона говорить вдома українською мовою виключно. Вона говорить англійською в школі виключно, так що вона знає дві мови досконало. Ми проводимо канікули у Львові, мої друзі у Львові ще всі.

Запитання від В'ячеслава з Києва: Чи є Ви патріотом України? Чому Ви не виступаєте в Україні, а в Англії?

А.Війтович: Якщо бути патріотом України означає виступати в Україні, то я є напів-патріот, тому що я виступаю в Україні за можливість. Але минулої осені я був на святкуванні 65-річчя видатного українського композитора, мого дуже хорошого друга, пана Євгена Станковича, де виконував його другий альтовий концерт. До речі, і перший альтовий концерт, перше виконання, зробив я також. Це щодо виступів в Україні. В жовтні я знову їду на концерт - на фестиваль 'Контрасти' до Львова.

Запитання від Тетяни з Києва: Коли Ви будете на Україні з наступним концертом?

А.Війтович: Є такі плани, це є жовтень. Але є ще план досить цікавий, добродійний план, який ми називаємо 'Медобори' - хочеться поїздити по Галичині, по Львівській області...

Бі-Бі-Сі: Медобори - це що таке?

А.Війтович: Медобори - це гори в Кременецькому районі в Тернопільській області. І ми плануємо з моїми однодумцями, музикантами зі Львова, зробити такий міні-тур по цим теренам, тому що я є родом із Кременця і хотілося би приїхати з концертом туди. Так що в даному випадку я великий патріот. І, крім того, намагаюся пропагувати українську музику в

Англиї, хоча це і є важко. Але ми мали концерт Валентина Сільвесторова з Лондонською симфонією, яка є дуже-дуже видатним оркестром англійським сучасної музики, так що робота ведеться. Про мій патріотизм можна говорити не одну годину.

Запитання від Тамари Іванівни з Харкова: В мене до Вас і запитання і коментар до того, що діється в нас на Україні - занепад класичної музики жахливий. Я бачу це, тому що телевізійні канали і ФМ-станції належать музичним невігласам, які встановлюють свої формати і примушують слухачів забути, що є інша музика крім їх агресивної попси. Мені здається, що починати треба з того, щоб слухачі звикали до класичної музики. Як Ви до цього ставитеся?

А.Війтович: Дуже дякую за запитання. Думаю, що проблема в комерційній структурі самого телебачення, тому що навіть у Західній Європі класичну музику можна почути по телебаченню досить рідко - є спеціальні канали, які транслюють культурні надбання, твори класичної музики, взагалі всі культурні цінності західноєвропейського континенту. Тобто, це є комерціалізація музики, звичайно ми говоримо про гроші, про спонсорські внески. В даному випадку попса - це те, що люди хочуть чути і те, що вони слухають. Але я вважаю, що не всі це слухають. Багато молоді слухає класику.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Але ж Ви казали, що на Заході класичні концерти можуть окупувати самі себе, вони мають спонсорів і можуть у цьому конкурувати з попсою, чи ні?

А.Війтович: Знаєте, з попсою конкурувати ніхто не може. В чому конкурувати? В кількості людей? Концерт знаменитого симфонічного оркестру набере стадіон, так само як і концерт попсової групи. Буде інша публіка, звичайно, буде інший настрій публіки, буде інший прийом публіки, але щодо публіки - це безперечно. Про це говорять переповнені зали оперних театрів, переповнені зали Royal Albert Hall, переповнені стадіони, коли проходять відкриті оперні спектаклі на стадіонах. Якщо ж ідеться про комерціалізацію музики, в цьому класична музика не може змагатися з попсою.

Я маю українське телебачення в Лондоні і, включаючи українське телебачення, ми майже ніколи не бачимо класичну музику, ми лише чуємо попсу.

Запитання від Олега зі Львова: Чи розглядаєте Ви поп- та рок-виконавців, як конкурентів? Адже їх концерти та ціна квитка на них є доступною для широких мас?

А.Війтович: Ще раз порівнюю ціну квитка в Королівську оперу, яка сягає до 300 фунтів стерлінгів, і квиток на той самий Iron Maiden, на який я хочу піти, коштував мені 50 фунтів, за хороші місця. Щодо конкуренції, це зовсім інші шляхи в музиці. Ми їх розглядаємо, як партнерів. Тому що в мене була можливість спілкуватися і грати з такими музикантами, як Стінг, Мадонна, Деер Purple, дуже близько. І ніколи не відчувалося якогось зверхнього ставлення, вони так само геніальні люди, як Яша Хейфіц, всесвітньо відомий скрипаль.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Андрію, як так сталося, що Ви грали зі Стінгом, із Мадонною?

А.Війтович: Це сталося, тому що я також дуже люблю попсу, хоча це не є попса, це дуже серйозна рок-музика. Ми мали зв'язки з оперним театром, і грали в Стінга вдома тут, за Лондоном, і грали на фестивалі в Італії. Це все проходило в його будинках, в дуже пристойному, хоча й маленькому, залі. де публіка не сиділа за столами, не розмовляла, не пила шампанське, а сиділа і уважно слухала. Вони вважають, що вони на рівень нижчі від

класичних музикантів. вони хотіли би чогось навчитися від нас. Звичайно, ми говоримо про хороший рівень класичної музики.

Запитання від Сергія з Києва: Я знаю, що коли Андрій був у Києві, він грав чи пробував грати на інструментах видатного українського майстра Юрєва. який працює в Києві. Хотів запитати Ваше враження, оскільки я знаю, що цей майстер робить дуже сучасні незвичайні інструменти?

А.Війтович: Так, справді, мені, якщо я не помиляюся, інструмент Юрєва показував відомий київський скрипаль Герман Сафонов. Він якийсь час або грав на цих інструментах, або пропагував їх. Це було дуже давно, років п'ять тому, і інструмент пробувався в приватній квартирі, досить короткий проміжок часу, може кілька хвилин, і в мене як такої пам'ятки в мене, як про інструмент, не лишилося. Але хочу сказати, що як альтист, я все своє життя грав на інструменті відомого українського майстра Мельника. Я той альт досі маю, я його перепробував із різними диригентами. І багато людей його чули і завжди хвалили, і в цьому випадку я також патріот.

Запитання від Тамари з Запоріжжя: Я мама Віктора Паламарчука, який грає на класичній гітарі. Мені цікаво, коли буде концерт у Кременці, бо син дуже хоче туди потрапити?

А.Війтович: Я можу сказати, що планується на вересень-жовтень. Але це все буде сплануватися під час мого перебування у Львові в липні, так що певних дат я не знаю.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Про Ваші виступи в Україні багато запитань. Одне з запитань від слухачки зі Львова, яка слухала Вашу програму для концерту на честь Євгена Станковича і запитує, яку зараз програму Ви готуєте для виступу в Україні.

А.Війтович: Я готує програму на фестиваль 'Контрасти'. Вона дуже контрастна. Це є Шуман, це є скандинавський композитор Зіндінг і це є Шостакович. Крім того, в мене фестиваль в Іспанії останні два тижні серпня. Що там буде виконуватися, я не знаю, але напевно багато камерної музики. Це є Брамс, фортепіанний квінтет, одна з сонат Брамса для альту з фортепіано. Це не з Королівською оперою, це є сольні мої концерти. Це на найближчий час.

Бі-Бі-Сі: До речі, говорячи про Королівську оперу, там таке враження, що вже склався такий собі український осередок? Ви в оркестрі, на сцені - Іван Петров...

А.Війтович: Так, я дуже добре його знаю.

Бі-Бі-Сі: Аліна Кожукару - теж київська школа...

А.Війтович: Так, безперечно, і в Аліні нещодавно був концерт, присвячений дітям Румунії, де я також брав участь і вона там танцювала. Вона, звичайно, непересічна балерина, так само як і Іван Петров. Ми нечасто спілкуємося, тому що вони мають свої плани, а оркестр - свої. Але в оркестрі є кілька музикантів зі східної Європи, з ними ми спілкуємося постійно.

Запитання від Андрія з Дніпропетровська: Запитання щодо класичної основи сучасної музики. Говорячи про Бітлз, пригадують Summertime Гершвіна, або кажуть, що Бах - родоначальник року. Чи часто Ви з таким зустрічалися?

А.Війтович: Ви знаєте, гармонічні основи, я би сказав, які беруться музикантами рок-музики, вони базуються на зразках класичної музики.

Is Ukraine returning to Kuchma-era repression?

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EURASIA DAILY MONITOR June 2, 2008 -- Volume 5, Issue 104

In a television interview on May 20 Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko raised the stakes in her worsening relations with President Viktor Yushchenko by bringing up the question of impeaching the president if a continuing investigation into the Vanko contract (see EDM, May 21) finds proof of corruption. Two days later the prosecutor's office filed criminal charges against Davyd Zhvania, a key organizer of the Orange Revolution, senior leader of the Peoples Self Defense wing of the Our Ukraine-Self Defense bloc (NUNS) and chief financier of Self Defense (NS).

Tymoshenko asked all members of the orange coalition to "place their hands on the table and say that these hands had never stolen." The issue of corruption within the orange coalition as a pretext for its undoing is nothing new. In September 2005 the Tymoshenko government fell after presidential secretariat head Oleksandr Zinchenko accused the president's advisers, drawn from big business, of abuse of office.

The spring 2008 crisis resembles the crisis in September 2005 in three respects.

First, the National Security and Defense Council (NRBO) was used on both occasions as a surrogate (anti-Tymoshenko) government.

Second, in both instances the presidents' deep personal dislike of Tymoshenko was unbridled in both words and actions.

Third, economic policy, privatization, social policies, corruption and energy divided Tymoshenko and the president.

The major difference between the two orange crises lies in the different constitutions in place at the time. Currently, the president has no right to remove the prime minister, and therefore the disintegration of the government and coalition will be evolutionary, not revolutionary as it was in 2005.

A more dangerous aspect to the Tymoshenko-Yushchenko rivalry rests over the return to Kuchma-era repressive tactics with one small caveat. If in the Kuchma era the regime launched a diversity of repressive policies against the opposition, today the presidential apparatus is repressing its own ostensible coalition partners.

Repressive policies have been launched along three fronts.

First, former Security Service chairman and NRBO secretary Yevhen Marchuk was appointed presidential adviser on May 19. Marchuk is suspected of being the brains behind the Mykola Melnychenko recordings in Kuchma's office in 1999 and 2000 to force Kuchma into early retirement. Marchuk was instrumental in coordinating parliamentary opposition to then Deputy Prime Minister Tymoshenko's policies against energy corruption in the 2000-2001 Yushchenko government that ultimately brought the government down.

Second, criminal charges against the government and the Tymoshenko bloc (BYuT) over its privatization plans are defended, because the privatization is attacked for being politically motivated to compensate Ukrainian citizens for money lost in Soviet savings and thereby win political dividends for the BYuT. Such accusations heated up in an April 14 statement by deputy head of the presidential secretariat Ihor Pushkin, followed by a very critical counter-attack two days later by the BYuT.

In almost daily attacks, the head of the presidential secretariat Viktor Baloha has retorted by accusing Tymoshenko of being a "cowardly charlatan," Ukraine's "Eva Peron," and an "uncultured pigmy" and has said that her constitutional proposals were "directed toward the introduction in Ukraine of a regime similar in nature to that of Hitler's Germany." A return to the use of such Soviet era rhetoric against opponents resembles the language used in a February 2001 statement accusing the opposition, including Tymoshenko, of being "fascists."

Third, proceedings to strip Davyd Zhvania of his Ukrainian citizenship. Ukraine does not recognize dual citizenship, and Zhvania gave up his Georgian citizenship when he became a citizen of Ukraine. He complained of double standards, accusing First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of maintaining her American citizenship after she received a Ukrainian passport in 2005 (she married Yushchenko in 1998). U.S. sources, however, told Jamestown that the first Lady gave up her US citizenship in autumn 2007, when the legal procedure was to give up foreign citizenship before taking Ukrainian.

Further criminal charges may be fabricated against Yuriy Lutsenko. Tymoshenko and Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, head of the NS, link the charges to the presidential secretariat's plans for replacing the orange with a grand coalition and to Lutsenko's demand, made a week earlier, for Viktor Baloha's replacement. "I believe that this was politically ordered by Mr. Baloha as a way of responding to objective criticism of his work," Lutsenko said.

Lutsenko and the NS, which controls 18 of NUNS's 72 deputies, have long been at odds with Baloha and his allies in NUNS. The pro-Baloha United Center party accuses Lutsenko's NS of being a "pro-Tymoshenko fifth column" inside NUNS and sees the BYuT as its main opponent, rather than the Party of Regions. Lutsenko recently stated that the NS would never again run jointly in an election with Our Ukraine.

Lutsenko is at odds with Baloha and Yushchenko over the May 25 Kyiv mayoral and council election with Lutsenko, who heads the NUNS bloc in the elections, supporting the Tymoshenko and Vitaliy Klichko blocs in their opposition to Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky. Meanwhile, Baloha and Yushchenko have switched their support to the mayor after NUNS refused to agree to Yushchenko's demand that it form an alliance with Chernovetsky. Yushchenko reportedly told NUNS of his hope that the Kyiv elections would become "Tymoshenko's Stalingrad."

Another aspect to the Zhvania case relates to Yushchenko's poisoning in September 2004. Zhvania was the only Orange Revolution leader, other than Yushchenko, present at the dinner where the poison was allegedly administered. Ukrainian media with links to the presidential secretariat have recently published unsubstantiated rumors that Zhvania was a suspect in the poisoning.

Repression instituted by the president through the NRBO and presidential secretariat is seen as a return to tactics used in the Kuchma era. Our Ukraine political analyst Ihor Zhdanov wrote, "In recent times the law enforcement structures have been actively used as an instrument of political struggle similar to that used under former President Leonid Kuchma."

These developments illustrate Yushchenko's and Tymoshenko's divergent views about how to relate to the Kuchma era. Tymoshenko was astounded when the president appointed Kuchma a member of the council of advisers of Kyiv University this month.

On the day her faction blocked the president's annual address to parliament, Tymoshenko said, "Today's authorities, who came to high positions after the Maidan [Independence Square, known for mass protests during the Orange Revolution], are in no way better than those we struggled against--the Kuchma authorities." Tymoshenko, whose government has been blocked by a two-month parliamentary blockade by the Party of Regions and daily interference by the president and Baloha, said that reforms since the Orange Revolution have been simply "empty chatter."

The Tymoshenko-Yushchenko rivalry is becoming even more intense. A presidential secretariat official said that, "Your Yulia has created bedlam in the last three years, and it's about time we finished once and for all with her." Comments such as this cast suspicion on whether Yushchenko is now convinced that the only way he can win a second term is by destroying Tymoshenko, as Kuchma attempted to do in 1991 and 1994 (www.pravda.com.ua, May 1-15, www.byut.com.ua, April 14, www.president.gov.ua, May 19, www.nso.org.ua, May 12, www.5.ua, May 20).

Seeking more freedom, Russians and others in region flock to Ukraine

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<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/05/09/europe/09ukraine.php>

The Associated Press

Friday, May 9, 2008



Filipp Pishchik, 37, showing the cartoon of Vladimir Putin that got him in trouble in Russia. (Sergei Chuzavkov/The Associated Press)

By Maria Danilova

KYIV: A gloomy Vladimir Putin wears a Czarist crown, clutching a bag full of dollars and a miniature television tower.

Filipp Pishchik says this and similar cartoons, depicting the former president as a corrupt leader who stifles free speech, got him in trouble with authorities and forced him to leave Moscow last

year for neighboring Ukraine.

"Ukraine is just great," said Pishchik, 37, a designer and architect. "Here there is hope."

Since the 2004 Orange Revolution ushered in a vigorous, sometimes chaotic democracy, Ukraine has become an island of freedom and tolerance in an ex-Soviet bloc still dominated by authoritarian regimes, and journalists, political activists, artists, and business professionals have flocked here.

In Soviet times, a dissident wanting to live free had only the West to look to. Getting there was hard, the culture alien, the language foreign. Ukraine, however, is an easy visa-free destination for most, Russian is spoken and speech is free.

Rights groups complain that Ukraine is stingy with granting asylum, which guarantees the applicant's right to stay and work indefinitely. Still, the influx vividly illustrates how far the country's path has diverged from that of Russia, which by the time of the Orange Revolution had already begun rolling back democratic reform.

The number of foreigners registered as living in this country of 46 million doubled to nearly 200,000 from 2003 to 2006, according to United Nations statistics; that does not include the unregistered. The number applying for political asylum rose to 2,300 last year from 1,800 in 2005.

Pishchik said he moved here after architecture magazines stopped publishing his work, longtime clients left him - hinting they were forced to do so by authorities - and he got threats from security officials. The reason, he says, was the cartoons he displayed in galleries and on Web sites.

Today, he lives in a spacious Kyiv house loaded with exciting new projects and is married to a Ukrainian artist.

"I tell all my friends that they all will end up here one day," Pishchik says.

Similar stories abound in today's Ukraine.

Yuriy Svirko, a 33-year-old journalist from Belarus, decided he had had enough of President Alexander Lukashenko's iron-fisted rule after he was accused of attacking a presidential body guard and threatened with arrest. (He says it was the guard who attacked him.)

Svirko arrived in Kyiv right after the Orange mass movement overturned a fraudulent election and brought reformist Viktor Yushchenko to the presidency.

Ukraine today is awash in competitive elections, noisy street protests and heated debates on TV shows and occasional fist fights in Parliament. Opposition rallies are held under the windows of the president's office, and many have forgotten a time when TV channels were state-controlled.

Savik Shuster had a TV political talk show in Russia until it was closed in 2004 as the Kremlin tightened the screws on media. Now he's in Kyiv, hosting a similar program on a Ukrainian channel.

"In Ukraine, freedom of speech still exists," said Shuster, 55. But for Russia today, "openness is like light for a vampire."

During the past two years, Belarusian expatriates have held an annual "Belarusian Spring" festival,

featuring fare banned back home - movies, poetry readings, underground rock bands.

This year's festival kicked off with a dozen activists racing down Kyiv's main avenue on cross-country skis when snow was nowhere to be seen. It was a poke at Lukashenko, a winter-sports fan who every year makes government officials and professional athletes compete with him in a ski competition which he always wins.

But rights groups say that while Ukraine is good at welcoming professionals, it is still inhospitable to relatively unskilled political refugees, granting only 3 percent of applications for political asylum, compared with more than 30 percent in neighboring Poland.

Ulugbek Zainabudinov, an Uzbek opposition activist, fled to Russia after a bloody crackdown on an uprising in his country. But Russian authorities began arresting the refugees at the Uzbek government's request, so in 2006 he moved to Ukraine.

That year, Ukraine deported 11 other refugees back to Uzbekistan, drawing harsh criticism from human rights groups. All the deportees have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms, the groups say.

"The very idea of freedom exists here and it is developing," said Zainabudinov said. "But I don't feel safe."

His asylum application has been turned down, and fearing deportation, he is seeking refugee status in Western Europe.

Experts say Ukraine has neither the resources nor the political will to take care of asylum-seekers. Natalia Prokopchuk of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Ukraine also does a poor job of helping asylum-seekers while their cases are being considered.

Natalia Naumenko, spokeswoman for the State Department on Migration, counters that most applicants are illegal migrants caught en route to Western Europe.

Dmytro Groisman of the Vinnytsia Rights Groups said the influx of asylum-seekers does not prove that Ukraine has developed into a tolerant and democratic society. Instead, he said, refugees simply had nowhere else to go.

"When your apartment is on fire, you would jump anywhere - in the snow, in the water, from the 6th floor," Groisman said. "People are running where they can."

Olga Kudrina, 22, is one of the lucky few who received political asylum. Sentenced to prison for unfurling a Putin-must-go banner near the Kremlin, she fled to Ukraine and lives with her baby daughter in a tiny apartment in Vinnytsia, 160 miles, or 257 kilometers, southwest of Kyiv.

Two colleagues from her banned National Bolshevik Party share her apartment in Vinnytsia and are seeking asylum.

One of them, Mikhail Gangan, 22, came here to escape arrest for breaking into a government building in Moscow and demanding that Putin step down.

"You live calmer, better here," said Gangan. "You won't see as many cops on the streets - you can walk down a street and not see a single one. In Russia that cannot happen."

The happiest places on earth - Moldova most unhappy country in the world (survey)

<http://www.welcome-moldova.com/articles/moldova-unhappiest-country.shtml>

By Andrew Wright

Moldovans are the unhappiest people in the world. That's according to data from the World Values Survey, whose researchers interviewed tens of thousands of people in over 60 countries during the last decade. Only 44% of people in Moldova said they were happy, the lowest proportion of all the countries surveyed. Is Moldova really such an unhappy place, and why?

These statistics from the World Values Survey are often quoted in a growing body of academic research into what causes happiness, and what implications there are for public policy. Often the answers to the “are you happy?” question are averaged with those to another, slightly different question – “are you satisfied with your life?” – to produce a broader measure called subjective well-being. Moldova comes out bottom on this count, too.

Country	% “happy”
Iceland	97
New Zealand	95
Sweden	95
Switzerland	95
Australia	94
Denmark	94
Norway	94
USA	94
[...]	
Armenia	57
Bulgaria	57
Lithuania	57
Slovakia	52
Russia	51
Ukraine	48
Belarus	46
Moldova	44

Source: World Values Surveys,
www.worldvaluessurvey.org

So what does cause happiness? Your instinctive response might be “money, of course” – and you'd be right, but only up to a point. A glance at the table shows that the unhappy countries are much

poorer than the happy ones. But when you plot subjective well-being against a country's average income on a graph, you find there's a strong relationship up to a certain point – around \$10,000 per year – but after that the relationship breaks down. Even more income doesn't make you even happier.

Of course, Moldova isn't anywhere near that point yet. But poverty can't be the whole story. There are countries even poorer than Moldova which are nonetheless much happier: Nigeria and Bangladesh, for example, have a lower average income than Moldova but their happiness rates are 81% and 85% respectively. Brazilians are only slightly better off than Moldovans, but 83% of them are happy. A whopping 93% of people in the Philippines consider themselves happy, despite income levels on a par with Moldova.

Nigeria, Brazil, Bangladesh and the Philippines are warm and sunny places, so might harsh Moldovan winters be at fault? That hardly seems plausible when you consider that the happiest place in the world is Iceland.

Could it be that language problems are to blame? Perhaps the word “happiness” translates differently in Bangladesh and the Philippines than it does in Moldova, leading people to apply different standards. This is a possibility, but the evidence is against it: French-speaking Swiss people are happier than French people, Italian speakers in Switzerland are happier than Italians, and Swiss who speak German are happier than Germans. This suggests that it's not something about what language they speak that makes Swiss people happy, but something about living in Switzerland.

Perhaps Moldovans were asked at a bad time. The data collected from different countries was not all gathered simultaneously, and that for Moldova came from a survey in 1995, arguably at the height of the difficulties caused by the transition from the Soviet era. But another, more comprehensive survey carried out in 2001 by a different organization suggests little has changed: Moldovans were slightly happier, 51% compared to 44%, but still came out bottom of the eight former Soviet states surveyed (Ukraine and Belarus were next most unhappy, at 53% and 60% respectively; Moldova seems to be the worst-hit victim of some kind of regional malaise).

It must be in political history where much of the answer lies, as all the other countries towards the bottom of the happiness list had also lived under communism. While it's easy to find examples of happy and poor countries, it's hard to find former communist states among them, Azerbaijan (78%) being the best candidate. The happiest states with a communist history, such as Poland (86%), the former East Germany (79%) and Hungary (78%), tend also to be the ones which have made the most economic progress.

Even then, they are less happy than other countries with similar income levels but without a communist past. As Ronald Inglehart and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, two of the leading academic researchers into the data on happiness, note: “Virtually all societies that experienced communist rule show relatively low levels of subjective well-being, even when compared with societies at a much lower economic level.”

Were people happier under communism? That's a difficult question to answer because only one survey of happiness was conducted in the Soviet Union. But the data from this survey suggests so. The Tambov region of Russia, the only part surveyed in the Soviet era, recorded 64% happiness in 1981 and only 47% in 1995. (The answers to the “satisfaction” question are even starker, down from 76% to 25% in the same period.) The only other country surveyed while under a communist

regime was Hungary, 78% happy in 1981, dipping to 68% as communism ended in 1990 and back up to 78% by 1998. (“Satisfaction”, though, continued to decline: from 71% to 56% to 52%).

While inhabitants of both Hungary and Tambov were significantly unhappier in 1981 than those of other states with similar income levels, the ending of communism made them even less happy. It seems reasonable to think the same historical pattern of happiness will be true for Moldova.

So what is it about life after communism that causes such misery? The increase in poverty is an obvious reason: according to the United Nations Development Program, the incidence of poverty in Moldova increased from 2.1% to 40.6% between 1991 and 1993. But there are other reasons. Unemployment and lack of job security are strongly correlated with unhappiness, and both increased markedly with the end of communism.

Health is another strong contributor to happiness. (Although, interestingly, “self-reported” health – how healthy you think you are – is much more closely related to happiness than “objective” health, or how healthy a doctor thinks you are. Having a positive outlook on your health seems to be the biggest factor). The ending of communism took a toll on Moldovans' health. Again according to the UNDP, the general mortality rate increased from 9.7 persons per 1000 in 1990 to 12.2 in 1995, and the infant mortality rate from 19.0 in 1990 to 22.6 four years later. In 1994, 26,300 people were treated at Moldovan medical institutions, down from 69,500 in 1980, presumably because the escalating costs of medical treatment led to more illnesses going untreated rather than because there were fewer illnesses needing treatment.

As noted in a strategy paper issued by the British government, inequality also makes people unhappy – in Europe, at least; Americans say they don't mind it so much. Assuming Moldovans share the European cultural preference for more equal societies, the rapid increases in inequality that accompanied the transition from communism must have increased levels of unhappiness.

The same paper notes that the quality of a country's governance also affects happiness; in particular, there is evidence that the more democracy and political freedoms people enjoy, the happier they are. In theory, the increase in political freedom and democracy after communism should have made Moldovans happier, but in practice it is arguable that the overall quality of governance may not have improved or may even have deteriorated. Corruption of public officials is also strongly correlated with unhappiness. And there are exceptions to the freedom rule: China, although a highly authoritarian society, has relatively high levels of subjective well-being.

Finally, there is a strong relationship between how happy people are and how much control they feel they have over their lives. As Inglehart, Klingemann and Chris Welzel point out: “In each of 148 national representative surveys, conducted in diverse societies ranging from Uganda to China, Iran, Brazil, Sweden and Poland, there is a strong correlation between people's perception of how much choice they have in shaping their lives, and their level of life satisfaction.” The lack of choice under communism may well explain why communist societies were more unhappy than others with similar incomes, but the uncertainties that accompanied the transition from communism may actually have led people to feel even less in control of their destinies.

At an individual level, there are other factors to be considered. Marriage has a big effect on an individual's happiness – equivalent to an increase of over \$100,000 in annual income, according to one estimate. Religious people are slightly happier, as are those who exercise or play sport. But differences in marital status, income, job satisfaction, health and so on explain surprisingly little of the variations in people's levels of subjective well-being. A large amount of our propensity to be

happy seems to be beyond our personal control, coded in our genetic inheritance.

A study of over 3,000 twins (Lykken and Tellegen, 1996) showed that identical twins report similar levels of happiness regardless of their life experiences, whereas non-identical twins – who shared a womb, but have different genes – do not. These studies suggest that around 45-50% of happiness is genetic. How happy your identical twin is, or even how happy your identical twin was ten years ago, is a much better predictor of your happiness than your income, education or social status. If you're prone to unhappiness – or happiness – you may simply have been born that way.

Genetic differences can't explain national differences, though: happiness levels within nations are known to have changed far more quickly than could possibly be explained by genes. It's implausible that there could be a disproportionate tendency to misery in the Moldovan gene pool.

And this is encouraging, because it suggests that whatever the precise combination of causes behind Moldova's bottom ranking in the happiness table, they are susceptible to change. Exactly why Moldova is so unhappy may still be mysterious, but the broad outlines of what's required are clear. With more wealth, health, good governance, freedom, democracy and equality, Moldovans can be happy too.

WWF studies alternatives to controversial Danube shipping channel

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http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=133861

19 May 2008

As Ukraine faces censure, WWF studies alternatives to controversial Danube shipping channel

With Ukraine expected this week to be found in contravention of its obligations under an international convention to consult with its neighbours on transboundary projects with environmental implications, WWF has commissioned a study into alternatives to the Danube delta Bystroye Canal at the centre of the dispute.

"Shipping through the Bystroye channel cannot be permitted following findings that it will lead to significant trans-boundary impacts to vital natural systems of international and global importance," said Michael Baltzer, Director of the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme.

"Once that is accepted, we can all move ahead to implement alternatives for Ukraine to improve navigation between the Black Sea and the Danube that have less severe impacts and still meet social and economic needs."

The WWF-commissioned report, which will be available at the end of June 2008, will present alternatives to the Bystroye for promoting shipping in the Ukrainian part of the Delta. The report is being undertaken by the Dutch consulting company DHV B.V. and involves a team of shipping experts from both Ukraine and Romania.

A peer review of the report's findings will be undertaken with national stakeholders in both the Ukrainian and Romanian parts of the Danube Delta, including e.g. the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and Danube Delta Research Institute.

The Danube Delta, which is shared by Ukraine and Romania and includes UNESCO Biosphere

Reserves and a World Heritage Site, is one of the worlds most valuable natural areas, with over 1,000 species of plants, 300 bird species and fish. It includes nesting sites for globally threatened bird species such as the Dalmatian and White Pelicans, pygmy cormorant, the red-breasted goose and several endangered species of sturgeon.

Ukraine's construction of the first phase of the deepwater channel and its approval of the second phase will be considered this week at a meeting in Bucharest of parties to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (sometimes called the Espoo Convention after the Finnish city where it was adopted in 1991).

The convention requires that member States notify and consult each other on projects that may have adverse transboundary environmental impacts. Following concerns expressed by Romania, a scientific panel established under the convention concluded in 2006 that Ukraine's Bystroye Channel project would have such impacts and called for Ukraine to suspend further development of the project until proper trans-boundary assessments and consultations could be undertaken.

The convention's Implementation Committee has since prepared findings that Ukraine is in non-compliance with its obligations which are expected to be endorsed by the full meeting of parties on 21 May.

Baltzer noted recent news reports that Ukrainian Premier Yulia Tymoshenko has pledged that all ecological issues that may arise over the work on building the canal will be resolved, saying "Finding an alternative to the Bystroye Canal is a real option, and the only option if this pledge is to be kept."

"WWF hopes that the study we have commissioned will help identify solutions for promoting navigation while safeguarding the vital and globally important natural heritage and ecosystem services of the Danube Delta."

WWF has been working to protect and preserve the Danube Delta for more than a decade. In 2002, WWF in cooperation with experts from the Odessa Water Management Board, Danube Biosphere Reserve and other scientific institutions published a vision for the protection and restoration of the Danube Delta, which they are now implementing.

Wetland areas on Tataru Island have been restored. Later this year, Katlabuh Lake will be reconnected to the Danube, helping to revive the dying lake and improve water quality for local communities and the fisheries on which they depend.

Ukrainian memorial garden a good move for Chicago's Smith Park

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chicagojournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=25&SubSectionID=173&ArticleID=5003&TM=58926.95
5/28/2008

Memorial garden a good move for Smith Park Ukrainian proposal would provide needed improvements

The decision to support a memorial garden in Smith Park commemorating the 75th anniversary of genocide in Ukraine is a tough call. It's understandable that neighbors have apprehensions about the

2,500-foot garden that observes the genocide of 1932 and 1933 that killed as many as 10 million Ukrainians. On the other hand, Chicago is home to a significant Ukrainian community, so it also makes sense that they want to raise awareness about the Stalin-imposed famine that still is denied by the Russian Federation.

Unfortunately, the Wednesday meeting of the Smith Park Advisory Council focused largely on the topic of whether the neighborhood is more ethnic Ukrainian or Italian. It's a topic that has no bearing at all on the garden issue. Some argued that the neighborhood is ethnically diverse but that a garden commemorating the genocide of another country is inappropriate for a park in Chicago. It's an argument worth considering, but the bottom line is the Ukrainian community is donating upwards of \$50,000 to put in 10 trees-each representing 1 million killed-benches, bushes, a pavilion and small granite boulders with plaques memorializing the event. What could be wrong with that? If approved the garden will be built quickly and provide a needed and tasteful improvement to the park.

Much of the consternation about the garden stems from the ethnic identity of those living in the neighborhoods around the park. Neighbors have complained that more a year ago banners appeared around the park welcoming visitors to Ukrainian Village. Residents in the Smith Park area have also expressed concern that the Ukrainian community will expand its traditional borders to the west, enveloping the neighborhood surrounding Smith Park.

Sometimes called Smith Park, sometimes referred to as "the patch," the area bounded by Western, Grand and Chicago is part of West Town, according to the city's map of the area. Neighbors in close proximity to the park should understand that their location does not give them ownership rights over the park. The voices of Ukrainian-Americans living near the park are just as valid.

Consecration of new bishop in Ukrainian Orthodox Church: Archimandrite Daniel
From: <ConsistoryOPR@aol.com>

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UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

A NEW HIERARCH IN THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA



The weekend of May 9-11, 2008 has been described as a weekend of a spiritual joy and renewal for not only the more than 500 people who gathered at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, OH but for the entire Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, as the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Church witnessed the consecration of a new bishop of the UOC of the USA in the person of Archimandrite Daniel (Zelinsky).

Seven Orthodox Hierarchs from around the world participated in the historical and joyful event of the Church. Metropolitan Constantine and



Archbishop Antony, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA were joined in the consecration services by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of the American Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church, His Eminence Archbishop Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, His Grace Bishop Jeremiah of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of South America, His Grace Bishop Demetrios, the assistant Bishop of the Greek Orthodox

Metropolis of Chicago and a representative of the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the US -- His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, and His Grace Bishop Andriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Western Europe.

Also participating in the consecration services were 60 priests and deacons of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and other Orthodox Churches, along with 400 faithful who traveled to Parma, OH from around the country, from California to Maine and from Canada to Florida and everywhere in between. In attendance were also three hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA: His Eminence Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Bishop Robert Moskal, Bishop-emeritus Basil Losten, as well as Bishop John Kudryk of Byzantine Catholic Church of America.

The liturgical services began on Friday night, May 9, 2008 with a Vesper service, served by Very Rev. Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, a Provost of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary and a pastor of Holy Dormition Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Northampton, PA; Rev. Fr. Harry Linsinbigler, Dean of Florida Deanery and a pastor of Holy Protection of the Mother of God parish in Dover, FL; Rev. Fr. Vasile Sauciu, Dean of the West Coast Deanery and pastor of St. Volodymyr's parish in Los Angeles, CA; Rev. Fr. Stephen Masliuk, Dean of the New England Deanery and pastor of St. Mary parish in Bridgeport, CT; Very Rev. Roman Tarnawsky, pastor of St. Andrew parish in Boston, MA; Rev. Deacons Dr. Ihor Mahlay and Dennis Lapushansky.

At the conclusion of the service, Archimandrite Daniel was led to the nave of the Church by Right Rev. Archimandrite Pankratij (Dubas) and Ihumen Gregory (Woolfenden) in front of the presiding hierarchs for the Nomination and Betrothal ceremony during which Metropolitan Constantine asked Archimandrite Daniel: "The Holy Sobor and Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, along with the Holy Synod of the Great Church of Christ, blesses Your Meekness, Most-Honorable Father Archimandrite Daniel, to be a bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Do you accept this election?" The Archimandrite answered: "Seeing that the Sobor, the Council of Bishops and the Holy Synod of the Great Church of Christ have judged me worthy to be bishop, I render thanksgiving and accept, and have nothing to say contrary to this."

Following the service, Metropolitan Constantine blessed Bishop-elect Daniel concluding with the joyful chanting of "Mnohaya Lita -- God grant you many years!" Following the service, Bishop-elect Daniel remained secluded in a Church for prayers and spiritual reflections and instructions while the clergy and faithful participated in a social gathering at the Cathedral Center, which was organized and sponsored by St. Vladimir Cathedral Parish.

During this gathering, Counsel Oleksandr Alexandrovych, representative of His Excellency Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States of America, Dr. Oleh Shamshur addressed the clerics and the faithful of the Church, expressing the Ambassador's greetings to Bishop Daniel as well as the entire Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

As the Church bells rang the festal chimes on Saturday, May 10, 2008 an immense procession of hierarchs, clergy and the faithful made its way from the cathedral rectories to the cathedral. Sixty children of the Ukrainian School at St. Volodymyr's Cathedral, as well as members of Plast and SUM and Ukrainian-American Veterans participated in the procession which was headed by the processional cross and Church banners, followed by the hierarchs, clergy and faithful to the entrance of the Cathedral, where they were greeted by Very Rev. Dennis Kristof, dean of the Penn-Ohio Deanery and Dareen Jogan, president of the Parish Board of Administration of St. Volodymyr cathedral and children of the Ukrainian and Church schools.

Prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, Bishop-elect Daniel was once again escorted by the Protopresbyters George Hnatko and William Diakiw to the nave of the Church in front of the presiding hierarchs for the solemn Professions of Faith. Metropolitan Constantine once again asked a question of Bishop-elect Daniel: "For what reason have you come, and what do you ask of our humility?" to which the Bishop-elect responded: "The laying-on of hands for the grace of the episcopacy, Holy Masters." Following that dialogue, Bishop-elect Daniel three times expressed to the hierarchs his detailed profession of faith. In conclusion, he presented Metropolitan Constantine with the written and signed profession of faith and his promise to the bishops, following which the Divine Liturgy began as Bishop-elect Daniel was escorted into the Sanctuary of the cathedral church where he remained until the consecration moment after the Thrice-Holy hymn.

The Divine Liturgy began with all the hierarchs mentioned above participating and assisted by the senior Deans and clergy of the Church: Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Dean Protopresbyter George Hnatko (Western PA Deanery), Dean Protopresbyter Frank Estocin (Mid-Atlantic Deanery), Dean Protopresbyter Taras Chubenko (NY-NJ Deanery, Dean Dennis Kristof (Penn-Ohio Deanery) and Dean V. Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk (Chicago Deanery), along with Protodeacon Irinei Dziadyk and Deacon Ihor Mahlay.

As the cathedral choir under a skilful direction of Maestro Markian Komichak completed the singing of "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us", Bishop-elect Daniel was led before the Royal Doors where he was received by the hierarchs. He knelt at the Holy Altar and the opened Holy Gospel Book was placed on his head and the prayers of Episcopal consecration were offered by the hierarchs. At their conclusion, Bishop Daniel stood and Metropolitan Constantine vested him in his Episcopal vestments, miter and panagia. As each sacred vestment was presented, Metropolitan exclaimed: AXIOS -- WORTHY, to which the clergy and then the faithful joyfully responded AXIOS -- HE IS WORTHY!

Once vested, Bishop Daniel was greeted by the hierarchs and as a Prokimenon was chanted, the new Bishop offered his first Episcopal blessing, exclaiming: PEACE BE TO YOU!

Following the Gospel reading, His Eminence Archbisihop Yuriy of Toronto offered a sermon in which he reflected upon the moment of Episcopal consecration and called upon the faithful to remember Bishop Daniel in their daily prayers.

At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Constantine addressed the newly consecrated bishop with profound spiritual instructions explaining to him the meaning of Episcopal service as successor to the Apostles and the wonder of the Holy Spirit's guidance, which leads every hierarch. The Metropolitan presented His Grace Bishop Daniel with the archpastoral staff and charged him to recall this Liturgy and these hierarchs, clergy and faithful who witnessed and participated in it, all of whom will keep him in their daily prayers, enabling his success - in God's terms. Bishop Daniel accepted the Episcopal staff with humility and offered his blessing to the clergy and faithful

gathered at St. Volodymyr's cathedral.

A most beautiful part of all the Consecration services - in addition to the magnificence of the Cathedral choir under the direction of Markian Komichak, as noted above - was the participation of the youth in singing and reading portions of the service, which had a powerful and emotional effect upon all the clergy and faithful gathered.

The joyful weekend ended with the Agape banquet in honor of the newly-consecrated bishop at which the more than 400 people present were addressed by the hierarchs and the several guests.

Halyna Zelinska, mother of His Grace Bishop Daniel, came from Ukraine and greeted her son with the words of love and parental instructions about his responsibilities as a shepherd of souls. This was a most moving and emotional moment, which brought everyone present to tears. In conclusion, Bishop Daniel addressed the participants of the banquet with words of gratitude.

In conclusion, His Grace greeted all mothers present at the impending celebration of Mothers Day and presented his mother with a bouquet of flowers and closed the evening with a benediction.

On Sunday morning, May 11, 2008, the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing women, His Grace Bishop Daniel served his first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, which was concelebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Antony and the clergy who remained following the celebration.

BISHOP DANIEL

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

A native of Ukraine, Bishop Daniel (secular name: Volodymyr Zelinskyy) was born in the small town of Buchach, Ternopil Region (similar to a state), Ukraine. He grew up in this region where he graduated from a local high school and enrolled in his first course of theological studies in the Seminary of Ivano-Frankivsk in September, 1993.

Following his education in Ukraine, Volodymyr emigrated to the USA in 1996 to continue his education at the Catholic University of America as well as the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC.

In 2000 Deacon Volodymyr was received into the UOC of the USA and enrolled in St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ. With many years of theological study already completed, his advanced standing enabled Fr. Daniel to complete the Orthodox theology program in two years. He concurrently enrolled in a graduate studies program in Applied Orthodox Theology at the University of Balamand, Holy Patriarchate of Antioch (Antiochian House of Studies, USA), receiving his Masters Degree in 2002.

Deacon Volodymyr was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Archbishop Antony on May 12, 2001 in St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, NJ. On May 22, 2002 the Archbishop tonsured him as a priest-monk (Hieromonk), with the name Daniel, at St. Elijah Ukrainian Orthodox Monastery in Dover, FL.

Following his monastic tonsure, Fr. Daniel was appointed assistant editor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Word (UOW), the official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. In September 2002, he became Editor-in-Chief of the UOW and remains in that position today. Also in 2002, His Eminence Archbishop Antony appointed Fr. Daniel director of the Consistory Office

of Public Relations (Communications) of the Consistory, which publishes the annual Church Calendar and manages the UOC of the USA web site.

In 2003 Fr. Daniel enrolled in the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Eastern Orthodox Focus), completing all the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry Degree, which was conferred upon him during the seminary commencement ceremonies in May of 2007.

In 2005, Fr. Daniel was appointed Spiritual Advisor to the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods and Spiritual Advisor to the Church Orphanage Adoption Program in Ukraine. Archimandrite Daniel has led the college mission teams to the Orphanages for the past four years.

In addition, in January of 2006 Fr. Daniel was commissioned as an officer of the US Army (Chaplain Corps). He enrolled into US Army Chaplain School at Fort Jackson, SC from which he graduated in April of that year and served as a chaplain in one of the Medical Brigades of the United States Army.

With the reactivation of a full academic program at St. Sophia Seminary, Metropolitan Constantine and the Seminary Board of Trustees appointed Fr. Daniel Dean of Students in 2006.

At the 2007 Convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA, Metropolitan Constantine appointed Hieromonk Daniel Spiritual Advisor of the Senior League. In that capacity and at the request of the UOL Senior Board, he also accepted the position of Chairman of the Vocations and Clergy Support Commission, which administers the Metropolitan John (Theodorovich) Scholarship Fund. This fund provides financial assistance for seminarians and clergy to pursue continuing education.

During the opening Divine Liturgy of the 18th Regular Sobor of the UOC of the USA on October 3, 2007, Hieromonk Daniel was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite by Metropolitan Constantine. A few days later, on October 6, 2007, the same Sobor elected Archimandrite Daniel as Bishop-Elect for the UOC of the USA. On January 9, 2008, His All-Holiness and the Great and Holy Synod of Constantinople formally elected and ritually included Archimandrite Daniel in the Diptychs of Holy Orthodoxy. The Episcopal consecration of His Grace Bishop Daniel took place at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox cathedral in Parma, OH USA on May 10, 2008.

Bishop Daniel has become known throughout the UOC of the USA and beyond as one to whom others can turn for advice, compassion and honest reflection. He is frequently invited to present lectures and reflections to various parishes and organizations -- both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian as well as Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

Martha Mary Wiecka beatified in Lviv, Ukraine

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<http://www.zenit.org/article-22709?l=english>

Ukraine's Blessed Wiecka a "Hymn to Life"

LVIV, Ukraine, MAY 27, 2008 (Zenit.org).- The testimony of newly beatified Martha Mary Wiecka is a hymn to life and a model of the importance of living for others, affirmed Benedict XVI's secretary of state.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone said this Saturday when he presided over her beatification ceremony in

Lviv, Ukraine.

The Polish religious, of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, died of typhus after deciding to replace a medical assistant who was to disinfect a patient's room in the hospital of Sniatyn. The nun's heroic deed "has never been forgotten," Cardinal Bertone said, as reported by L'Osservatore Romano.

Love always conquers and the mission of Christians is "to bear witness to the victory of love at every occasion of life," he added.

The love of the Lord, to which Sister Martha Mary Wiecka (1874-1904) bore witness, "overcomes human weakness and converts the heart of man to the love of life, of his neighbor, including his enemies," explained the cardinal.

[...]

During Soviet times

Cardinal Bertone said that the beatification of Sister Wiecka was the fulfillment of the "desire of the Ukrainian people to raise to the glory of the altar a daughter of theirs."

He recalled that during the Soviet era, the nun's tomb was a "symbol of popular unity and example of genuine ecumenical dialogue."

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Ukrainian chief rabbi to resign

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<http://www.jta.org/cgi-bin/iowa/breaking/108827.html>
05/30/2008

One of Ukraines chief rabbis said he will resign at the end of this year.

Rabbi Azriel Chaikin, 78, told members of the Ukraine rabbinate and leaders of the Federation of the Jewish Communities this week that he would resign at the end of his term.

Chaikin said he would "continue to pray" for the people of Ukraine, "for the prosperity of the Ukrainian state, for peace and tranquility in this beautiful state: Ukraine."

Chaikin was elected chief rabbi September 2003. There are three chief rabbis in Ukraine: Chaikin, Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich and Rabbi Moshe Azman Reuveni.

Rabbi Aleksandr Dukhovny is leader of the Reform, or Progressive, movement in Ukraine.

Holocaust Torahs dedicated in Ukraine

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<http://www.jta.org/cgi-bin/iowa/breaking/108828.html>
05/30/2008

Two Holocaust-era Torah scrolls were installed in Ukraine's Golden Rose synagogue.

The Torahs came from Jewish communities in Ukraine and Belarus where the local residents were lost to the Holocaust.

After restoration in Israel they were returned to the Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk on Tuesday.

"These two Torah scrolls came from Jewish communities that died out in the Holocaust," said rabbi Shmuel Kaminetzky, chief rabbi of Dnepropetrovsk. "This fact is proof as to the rebirth of Jewish life here."

The main sponsors of the restorations are the families of Arkady Golda, Mikhail Katz, Boris Gelman and Mikhail Redkov.

Environmental orgs urge Ukrainian government to incorporate environmental standards into Euro 2012 planning

From: Ukrainian American Environmental Assn <ua_ea@yahoo.com>

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Kyiv, Ukraine -- In an open letter sent today to members of the Ukrainian government and the Euro 2012 National Agency of Ukraine, thirty five Ukrainian environmental organizations appealed to government officials to incorporate environmental standards into planning for the 2012 Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) European Football Championship.

"The Euro-2012 Program adopted by the Ukrainian Government does not have a single mention of environmental planning and components that should be incorporated into Euro-2012 Championship preparation and conduct," said Taras Lychuk, Co-director of the Ukrainian-American Environmental Association (UAEA), which initiated the sign-on letter to the Ukrainian government. "Ukrainian environmental organizations consider that an environmentally-responsible and conscious approach towards Euro-2012 Championship would reduce energy costs and adverse environmental impacts associated with transportation, heating and lighting of facilities, and waste disposal -- before, during and after the Championship."

"In this letter we listed a range of specific measures and recommendations which should be implemented for greening the Euro-2012 Championship preparation and conduct," said Irina Stavchuk, Coordinator of the Working Group of Ukrainian Environmental Organizations on Climate Change Issues, which actively joined the sign-on campaign. "These recommendations deal with energy-efficient designs for heating, cooling, and lighting of the facilities which will be used in the Championship. We also recommend the use of renewable energy technologies and recycled and/or non-toxic materials in the construction or rehabilitation of hotels, restaurants, stadiums, and other buildings associated with the program."

Environmentalists also recommend that local authorities, especially those cities which will host the Euro-2012 Championship, implement some actions to rehabilitate, maintain and enlarge green zones such as parks, botanical gardens and green recreational areas.

Similarly, environmental organizations recommend emphasizing reliance on railway service and mass

transit rather than private automobiles, developing high-speed railroad connections, making broad

use of renewable fuels (e.g., biodiesel and other biofuels) and hybrid-electric vehicles in taxi services, and maximizing energy-savings in all support structures.

The letter concluded with an appeal for strong cooperation between environmental organizations and the Ukrainian government during the Euro-2012 campaign and noted that successful models of "greening" the Championship can be found in recent Olympic Games and other sporting events as well as other large-scale construction programs in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

Seven-time gold medal gymnast Shaklin dead at 76

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<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/06/02/sports/GYM-Obit-Shaklin.php>

KYIV, Ukraine -- Olympic gymnastics champion Boris Shaklin, the only athlete to win four gold medals at the Rome Olympics, has died. He was 76.



Boris Shaklin at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

His death Friday of cardiac arrest was announced by the International Gymnastics Federation.

"With the loss of Boris Shaklin, a legend disappears; I would go as far as to say that a glorious chapter in the history of international gymnastics has come to a close," FIG president Bruno Grandi said in a statement. "He was an icon as an athlete."

Shaklin, nicknamed the "Mask of Iron," won 13 Olympic medals -- seven gold -- as part of the Soviet gymnastics squads that battled Japan in the 1950s and 1960s in one of gymnastics' great rivalries. He also was the world champion in 1958.

At the Melbourne Olympics in 1956, Shaklin helped the Soviets edge Japan for the team gold and won a second gold on pommel horse.

Four years later in Rome, Japan won the first of what would be five straight team golds, but it was Shaklin who was the Games' biggest star.

He won the all-around title, and three other golds on parallel bars, vault and pommel horse. He won a silver in the team competition and another on rings, and added a bronze on high bar.

His seven medals in Rome tie him for second-most by an athlete at a single Games.

Shaklin won another gold medal, on high bar, at the 1964 Games, as well as silvers in the all-around and team competition and a bronze on rings.

Shaklin retired in 1966, and went on to coach in his native Ukraine and serve as an international judge. He was a member of the FIG's technical committee, which sets the rules, from 1968 to 1992.

In 2002, he was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2002.

Екологічних організацій закликають уряд України до прийняття невідкладених мір щодо екологізації чемпіонату Євро-2012

From: Ukrainian American Environmental Assn <ua_ea@yahoo.com>

Четвер, 22 травня 2008р.

м. Київ, Україна – У відкритому листі, надісланому сьогодні від 35 екологічних організацій України на адресу Уряду України, Національного агентства з питань підготовки і проведення Євро - 2012, екологічні організації закликали закласти екологічну складову у планування проведення чемпіонату Європи з футболу Союзу європейських футбольних асоціацій у 2012 році.

„У програмі підготовки Євро 2012, що затверджена українським урядом, жодного слова немає про екологічні засади та природоохоронні компоненти, що їх буде дотримано під час підготовки та проведення чемпіонату, - каже Тарас Личук, співдиректор Українсько-американської екологічної асоціації (УАЕА), яка висунула ініціативу по збору підписів під листом до українського уряду. - Українські екологічні організації вважають, що екологічно відповідальний і свідомий підхід до організації „Євро – 2012” дозволить знизити витрати на використання енергоносіїв та ліквідацію негативних екологічних впливів, пов’язаних із транспортним забезпеченням, опаленням, освітленням та утилізацією сміття - до, під час і після проведення чемпіонату.”

„У листі ми зазначили ряд конкретних заходів та рекомендацій, які необхідно вжити для екологізації процесу підготовки та проведення чемпіонату, - говорить Ірина Ставчук, координатор Робочої групи українських неурядових екологічних організацій з питань зміни клімату (РГ НУО ПЗК), що активно долучилася до підписної кампанії. - Ці рекомендації стосується, зокрема, впровадження у життя енергоощадних моделей постачання тепла/охолодження, водопостачання, освітлення будівель, що будуть задіяні в проведенні чемпіонату; використання технологій відновлювальної енергетики та матеріалів із вторинної сировини/нетоксичних матеріалів при зведенні та обслуговуванні будівель готелів, ресторанів, стадіонів та інших споруд, що будуються в рамках проведення чемпіонату.”

Екологи також пропонують міській владі, особливо тих міст, що прийматимуть Чемпіонат, провести роботу по збереженню, впорядкуванню, оздоровленню та розширенню територій зелених зон, що мають рекреаційне, природоохоронне, естетичне, історичне і т. ін. значення: територій парків, скверів, ботанічних садів та пам’яток природи, приміських лісів.

Крім того, природоохоронці рекомендують при плануванні міжміських транспортних сполучень надавати пріоритет залізничному транспорту, створенню швидкісних залізничних сполучень, закупівлі сучасних комфортних вагонів і розвитку відповідної інфраструктури, а також заохочувати використання громадського транспорту, а не приватних автомобілів,

використовувати відновлюване пальне (біодизель та біопаливо) і гібридні автомобілі в службах таксі.

На завершення, екологічні громадські організації закликають до тісної співпраці Уряд України та зазначають, що успішні моделі проведення „зелених” чемпіонатів можна побачити на прикладі останніх Олімпійських ігор та інших спортивних подій, пов’язаних з їх проведенням великомасштабних будівельних робіт у Європі, США та інших країнах.

Re: "The Ukrainian famine was not a genocide" Alexander Solzhenitsyn

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5 posts in the Globe and Mail - June 2, 2008

Ukrainian famine and genocide

ERNA PARIS

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080602.COLETTS02-10/TPStory/?query=ukrainian>

Toronto -- Genocide, by its core legal definition, is the deliberate, planned, systematic destruction of a group, in whole or in part, for reasons of their membership in the group, alone.

Solzhenitsyn denies that Stalin planned to annihilate Ukrainians qua Ukrainians, as opposed to the class of kulaks, but he does not prove his case.

Genocide is the worst of what are called crimes against humanity, which are grievous assaults on the essence of what it is to be human. In my view, it is enough to understand the Ukrainian famine in this latter context until there is strong and sufficient historical evidence that this monstrous crime meets the criteria of a genocide, or until it is interpreted by informed independent jurists.

In the meantime, a cavalier granting of the crown of genocide, such as the Harper government's decision last week, cheapens the meaning of the most serious offence humankind has seen fit to define and acknowledge.

Ukrainian famine and genocide

MARLA WALTMAN

June 2, 2008

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080602.COLETTS02-8/TPStory/?query=ukrainian>

Toronto -- As a Jewish Canadian of Ukrainian descent, I read Alexander Solzhenitsyn's books about life under the former Soviet dictatorship and felt he understood what it was like to be oppressed.

Now, he sides with those who oppressed him by denying the Holodomor in the same way that they denied the Holocaust. They argued that the Holocaust did not really exist except as an idea invented by Zionists for political "chauvinist" gain. Now we are hearing the same about the Holodomor. Genocide denial is as ugly today as it was then.

Ukrainian famine and genocide

NICK SOPINKA

June 2, 2008

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080602.COLETTS02-9/TPStory/?query=ukrainian>

Kimberley, Ont. -- Seven million Ukrainians were killed in a premeditated way. Stalin gave his lieutenant Lazar Kaganovich free rein to collectivize - steal - their farms. Resistance was met with widespread mass executions. Then the Communists stole their crops and sold them to Europe, a fact verified by the Russian government after the Soviet collapse.

Kaganovich's assistant boasted, "It took a famine to show them who is master here."

Ukrainian famine and genocide

NICOLAS BERBENETZ

June 2, 2008

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080602.COLETTS02-7/TPStory/?query=ukrainian>

Mississauga -- Alexander Solzhenitsyn (The Ukrainian Famine Was Not A Genocide - Comment, May 31) presents no evidence to support his claim that the outcry over the Holodomor only started decades after the event. In fact, many books were published within five years of this event. For instance, Human Life in Russia by Dr. Ewald Ammende (London, Allen & Unwin, 1936) presents a very clear indication of the calculated nature of the Holodomor.

Ukrainian famine and genocide

TARAS GULA

June 2, 2008

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080602.COLETTS02-11/TPStory/?query=ukrainian>

Toronto -- My maternal grandparents and three aunts survived the famine and would agree that it was a genocide, but I understand that that is not enough to make the case. The story is more complex than the Nazi death camps and the Rwandan massacres, but we should pursue it with open discourse, open archives and information - not attacks, put-downs and dismissiveness of the kind that Mr. Solzhenitsyn is engaging in.

The great famine

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinions/letters/>

June 03, 2008

Larry Black
University Partnership Centre, Georgian College
June 3, 2008

Barrie, ON. -- Alexander Solzhenitsyn's insistence (The Ukrainian Famine Was Not A Genocide - May 31) that the horrendous famine in the USSR was not a deliberate act of genocide against ethnic Ukrainians has evoked outrage across Canada, even though Mr. Solzhenitsyn denies neither the famine nor the role that Stalin and the Communists played in it. If we can assume that genocide refers to the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular ethnic group, how do we count the thousands of ethnic Russians or Georgians or Kazakhs who also starved to death during that tragic time?

Ethnic Ukrainians did bear the brunt of Soviet bureaucratic indifference and cruel blindness to the consequences of their single-minded agricultural policies. Bolsheviks hated and feared the peasantry, seeing them as bearers of "creeping capitalism" and the main obstacle in the way of their projected proletarian paradise. Thus, the target of collectivization was the peasantry per se, no matter their ethnic origins.

The famine of 1932-33 was an extraordinarily complicated event. To label it as a simple act of genocide, as if it were owned by a particular people, lacks objective sense; to have it done by parliamentarians, most of whom know very little history, makes even less sense.

Ihor Stebelsky
Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Windsor
June 3, 2008

University of Windsor -- During Soviet rule, when Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a dissident, he produced an admirable literary revelation, *The Gulag Archipelago*. Now, in post-Soviet Russia, with a war of words heating up between Russia and Ukraine over the Holodomor, he is engaging in disinformation.

Central to Mr. Solzhenitsyn's argument is his allegation that the great famine of 1921 was similar to the Holodomor of 1932-33. That was not the case. The famine of 1921 affected not only Russia from the Urals west, as Mr. Solzhenitsyn mentions, but also Ukraine. It was a precursor to the Holodomor in that it was caused by the forced requisition of food associated with the Bolshevik policies of "war communism" (civil war in Russia and invasion and colonialism in Ukraine). But the Soviet government changed its anti-peasant policy in 1921, admitted that starvation was occurring (blaming it on drought), accepted foreign aid and even solicited food from Ukraine to aid starving Russians in Petrograd, Moscow and the Volga region.

Re: World forgets, Canada remembers

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[-](#)

Dear Editor,

Re your article: "World forgets, Canada remembers" by Eric Margolis in the June 1 edition of the Toronto Sun.

Kudos to Eric Margolis for his diligent reporting on Soviet atrocities, and his call for the west to hold Stalin and his successors accountable.

He will no doubt receive hate mail for his efforts. Stalin still has apologists in the west, judging by some of the vicious comments on various blogs and comment boards vilifying the the Canadian and Ukrainian presidents over Canada's declaration of the Ukrainian Holodomor (famine) of 1932-33 as a genocide.

It seems some people just cannot bear to have their illusions shattered, so they fiercely defend them -- no matter how wise, practical and honest it would be to (at least) reconsider them.

Thank you for the courage to print (and for Eric to write) articles that shatter illusions the world can do without.

Paulette MacQuarrie
Coquitlam, BC
<http://nashholos.blogspot.com/>

Re: World forgets, Canada remembers + response by journalist Eric Margolis

[^](#)

Sent: June 3, 2008
To: margolis@foreigncorrespondent.com
Subject: Article on the Holodomor

Dear Mr. Margolis,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sensitive stand and accurate picture of events behind the Iron Curtain, and especially, the Holodomor.

www.torontosun.com/News/Columnists/Margolis_Eric/2008/06/01/5737531-sun.php

I am the child of 2 survivors of the Holodomor, born in a refugee camp after world War II in Germany. My father, who is deceased, spent his youth in the Gulag, building the White Sea Canal. Three generations of my family were destroyed under Stalin.

I became a history teacher and Department of History and worked faithfully and conscientiously for the TDSB for over 25 years, and yes I taught about the Holodomor, but not my colleagues.

Yesterday, I was ashamed of my employer and felt soiled by their decision not to include the Holodomor in the new Genocide curriculum. You see, I was the main presenter before the TDSB Board Committee. I answered all their objections to leaving it out at this time, but to no avail. I know for a fact that this was simply a facade of an appeal. The decision was made ahead of time and we were duped into thinking , that our rational arguments and factual historical presentation, would be considered. As a matter of fact, most of their arguments dealt with how curriculum is written and presented and how, at this time, it was impossible to include. As I have been writing and teaching curriculum for 35 years, I saw no conflict whatsoever with including the Holodomor in the present curriculum, which is even now being prepared.

I see, however, that there are vested interests, Holodomor deniers, within the TDSB staff, who are not interested in seeing the Holodomor taught. I was at an initial meeting for teachers, when it was being planned and know how things have evolved. None of the deniers dare to speak out openly against it, but have done everything they can to contain it.

The situation in the board meeting room last night was undemocratic, to say the least. There were no questions asked, nor any objections given as to why it was being left out. The argument given by Rowan, the Assistant Director of Educator was, that the Holodomor may be taught in other history classes.

For the past 5 years, I have been a librarian in various high schools in Toronto and every time students come to the library to research World War 11, they are studying the Holocaust. So, why is it ok to teach the Holocaust in the genocide course, but not the Holodomor? It seems to me that there are different standards and biases for human tragedy.

I am sending you my presentation notes, which you may use as arguments, should you be inclined to write other articles.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is extremely upset. There will be repercussions. We will not roll over and die. My generation has a task, and that is to see that justice is done and that the souls of our murdered people may finally lay to rest with recognition of a wrong done 75 years ago.

Valentina Kuryliw
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Response by Eric Margolis

From: eric margolis <margolis@foreigncorrespondent.com>

Date: June 3, 2008 12:21:59 PM

To: "Valentina Kuryliw" <vkuryliw@sympatico.ca>

Subject: RE: Article on the Holodomor

The refusal of the TDSB to include the Holdomor in their genocide curriculum is scandalous and totally unacceptable. No one has a monopoly on suffering. I urge you to press this fight and even consider legal action. Surely, there must be some lawyers of Ukrainian descent who will spearhead this fight pro buono. I would be ready to testify or give deposition.

I feel particular sympathy for you father, having been in one of Stalin's most hellish slave labor camps. My respects.

Best Wishes

Eric Margolis

ADMINISTRATION, subscribing, unsubscribing, etc.

[^](#)



Myroslava Oleksiuk
-- editor-in-chief

We hope you found e-POSHTA informative and will share it with others.
Your submissions and suggestions are always welcome.

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or

myroslava@rogers.com

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